Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-078
Wednesday
22 April 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-078 22 April 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi on Cairo Talks, Jordan Ties, 'Arafat *[Jerusalem International]* 2
'Ashrawi—Rome Likely Site of Future Peace Talks *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 16-22 Apr]* 2
Delegation To Withdraw If U.S. Backs Loans *[Sanaa YOP]* 3
'Abd-al-Shafi—Municipal Elections Israeli Ploy *[AL-FAJR 17 Apr]* 3
Delegate Urges Independent Territories Elections *[Amman Radio]* 4
Fatah 'Conflict' Noted Over 'Arafat Succession *[MENA]* 4
DFLP Head Calls for PLO Leadership Reforms *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 20 Apr]* 4
PLO Official Urges Collective Decisionmaking *[AL-RAY 22 Apr]* 5
PLO's Khalid Previews Central Council Meeting *[AL-RAY 18 Apr]* 5
'Arafat Rejects Use of Force Against Libya *[Sanaa YOP]* 6
'Arafat Begins North Africa Visit 6
Meets Iraqi Official in Libya *[INA]* 6
Arrives in Mauritania *[Nouakchott Radio]* 6
Details Talks With President *[Nouakchott Radio]* 6
Arrives in Morocco *[Rabat TV]* 7
Meets With King Hassan *[Rabat Radio]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FIS Calls On Citizens 'To Take Up Arms' *[AFP]* 8
Details Casualties, Arrests *[AFP]* 8
State To Review Case Against FIS Head Hachani *[Algiers TV]* 8
Hachani Faces Incitement Charges *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Rights League Urges Detention Camps' Closure *[Paris International]* 9

Egypt

Mubarak Meets al-Qadhdhafi on 'Crisis' 9
Three-Hour Talks Held *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Al-Qadhdhafi Departs 21 Apr *[MENA]* 9
Commentaries View Impact of Sanctions on Libya 9
'Conflicting' Libyan Statements *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 18 Apr]* 9
Libyan Restraint Urged *[AL-AHRAM 16 Apr]* 11
Cairo 'Regretfully' Accepts Sanctions *[Cairo Radio]* 12
AL-AHRAM Interviews Israel's Rabin on Peace *[MENA]* 12
Paper Urges Greater UN Intervention in Israel *[MENA]* 13
UN 'Silence' on Israeli Nuclear Arms Viewed *[MENA]* 13
Mubarak Urges Journalistic Circumspection *[AL-AKHBAR 16 Apr]* 14
Mubarak Receives Chairman of Law Association *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Council Delegation *[MENA]* 14
Musa on Country's Role in Gulf Security, Peace *[MENA]* 14
Joint Communique Signed With Ecuador *[MENA]* 15
Zairian President Departs After Visit *[MENA]* 15

Libya

Families of Downed Libyan Airliner Issue Statement *[JANA]* 15
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Syrian Party Representatives *[Tripoli TV]* 16

Sudan

Authorities Arrest 11 Officers for Coup Plot *[MENA]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Minister Details Reconstruction of Oil Refineries *[Kuwait Radio]* 17

Oman

Sultan Meets With Syrian President al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 17

Qatar

Officials, Egyptian Foreign Minister Hold Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Egypt's Musa on Lockerbie Efforts *[MENA]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Fifth Installment of 1992 PLO Aid Released *[SPA]* 18

Republic of Yemen

Minister Briefs Envoys on Saudi Embassy Attack *[Sanaa Radio]* 18

IRAQ

Baghdad, Iran To Exchange POW's Before May *[AL-THAWRAH 19 Apr]* 19
Paper Warns Iran Against 'Playing With Fire' *[INA]* 19
Envoy to Turkey Denies Baghdad-PKK Ties *[INA]* 19
Iraqi Free Council Condemns New Kuwaiti Border *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 19
Opposition Says Regime Helicopters Attack Nojol *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 20
Opposition Reports Increased Army Defections *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 20
'Large Number' of al-Hillah Citizens Executed *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 21
Paper Terms George Bush 'Willful Criminal' *[INA]* 21
Telephone Links to U.S., Greece, Sweden Set *[INA]* 21
Interior Minister Receives Libyan Envoy *[INA]* 21
Syrian President's Regional Tour Viewed *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Minister Briefs Red Cross on Medical Shortage *[INA]* 22
Human Rights Head Criticizes U.S. Actions *[AL-'IRAQ 20 Apr]* 22
Former Prime Minister Views Western 'Progress' *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 19 Apr]* 24
Food Price Drop Linked to Opening With Turkey *[BABIL 18 Apr]* 24

ISRAEL

Shamir: West Bank, Gaza 'Ours Forever and Ever' *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
More on Shamir's Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Shamir Discusses U.S. Ties, Elections *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Apr]* 25
Shamir Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Issues *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Rabin Discusses Elections, Peace Process *[DAVAR 17 Apr]* 27
Rabin Discusses Regional Peace Prospects *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 20 Apr]* 29
Ben-Aharon on Peace Talks, German Loan Guarantees *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Foreign Ministry: Europe Relations 'Real Crisis' *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
Reportage on Clashes in Southern Lebanon 33

SLA, IDF Shell Kafr Rumman *[IDF]* 33
Two 'Hizballah Terrorists' Killed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Lebanon Frees 3 'Would-Be' PLO 'Attackers' *[Jerusalem International]* 33
Shamir Maintains Innocence of Freed Syrian Jews *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Syrian Attempt To Violate Air Embargo Analyzed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Latvia Opens Consulate in Tel Aviv *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 34
ADP Elects Knesset Candidates *[HA'ARETZ 19 Apr]* 34
First Water Pipe From Israel to Gaza Opened *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
IDF Intelligence Chief on Military Threats *[YEDIOT AHARONOT 17 Apr]* 34

JORDAN

Minister on Libya Blockade, Confederation *[AL-RIBAT 21 Apr]* 40
Muslim Brotherhood Condemns 'Siege' on Libya *[AL-DUSTUR 22 Apr]* 41
Editorial Views Arab Stance on Libya, Iraq *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Apr]* 42
Iraqi Ba'th Official Meets Popular Organizations *[INA]* 42
'Steady Trickle' of Refugees From Iraq Continues *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Apr]* 42
Peace Talks Delegate Remarks on Multilaterals *[Amman Radio]* 43
Al-Sharif on U.S. Ties, Israeli Attitudes *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Apr]* 44
PFLP's Habash Praises King's Generosity *[AL-RA'Y 19 Apr]* 44
Debt Discussed With London, Paris Clubs *[JORDAN TIMES 22 Apr]* 45

LEBANON

Al-Murr Terms U.S. Stand on Aid 'Positive' *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Buwayz on Possible Israeli Strike, Kurdish Bases *[VOL]* 47
Turkish Envoy on 'Good News' From Syria on Kurds *[VOL]* 47
Iranian Envoy Conveys Velayati Message to Buwayz *[VOL]* 47
Al-Murr, French Group Discuss Equipping Army *[Beirut Radio]* 48

SYRIA

Airlines To Continue Attempts To Defy Embargo *[MENA]* 49
Envoy Denies Arms Transfer, Lockerbie Connection *[AL-ITTIHAD 20 Apr]* 49
Ba'th Official, Delegation Return From Libya *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Ba'th Party Delegation Returns From DPRK *[SANA]* 49
Paper Names Turkish Group Leaders To Be Expelled *[Istanbul 2000 IKIBIN'E DOGRU 12 Apr]* 49
Arab Unity Amid New World Order Needed *[Damascus Radio]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hatef—State Decisions Being Made 'Jointly' *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Mas'ud on Establishing 'Islamic' Government *[Paris TV]* 51
UN's Sevan Meets With Mas'ud in Mazar-e Sharif *[AFP]* 51
Islamic Unity Party Urges Consensus *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Reportage on Mojahedin Battles, Troop Status 52
Capital of Logar Province Falls *[Pakistan TV]* 52
Kabul Troops, Hekmatyar Rebels Clash *[AFP]* 52
Strategic Cities Captured; Appeal for Aid *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Barrracks Captured in Logar Province *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 53
Troops in Gardeyz Poised for March *[AFP]* 53
'Thousands' Leave Camps, Join Mojahedin *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 54

India

Najibollah 'Still in UN Office' in Kabul *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Delhi 'Continues To Deal' With Kabul Government *[Delhi Radio]* 54
UN's Ghali Arrives, Comments on Afghanistan *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Kashmir Strike Protests Ghali Visit *[AFP]* 54

Pakistan Asked To Recall Alleged Spy *[AFP]* 55
Opposition Demands Freeze on Union Carbide Assets *[Delhi Radio]* 55

Iran

Besharati on 'Closer' Ties With Gulf States *[IRNA]* 55
Kurdish Leader Talabani Visits Tehran 56
Meets With Military Commanders *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 56
Government Strafes Kurdish Villages in Kifri *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Reportage on Mojahedin, Afghan Refugee Situation 57
Foreign Ministry Head Receives Jam'iyat Leader *[Tehran TV]* 57
Committee To Oversee Refugees Proposed *[Tehran Radio]* 57
UNHCR To Assist Return of Refugees *[IRNA]* 57
Statements, Commentaries on UN Libya Resolutions 58
Khomeyni on U.S. 'Bullying' *[Tehran TV]* 58
Arab Attitude Toward Sanctions Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 58
'New Front' in Arab World Seen *[Tehran Radio]* 58

Pakistan

Government 'Trying To Save' Afghanistan *[Pakistan TV]* 59
Kanjoo Meets With Mojahedin Party Representatives *[Pakistan TV]* 59
Zaki, Iran's Musavi Urge Mojahedin Coordination *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Defense Minister on Afghanistan, Nonproliferation *[Islamabad Radio]* 60

Algeria

The Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, has called on the public to take up arms and overthrow the government. In an underground pamphlet obtained by AFP, the FIS urged Algerians "to move from words to rifles after the failure of attempts at dialogue," according to the press agency.

Sudan

—'Political sources' in Khartoum cited in the Qatari paper AL-SHARQ said authorities have arrested more than 11 officers for planning a coup that was to have taken place on 14 April, MENA reported.

Iraq-Kurds

Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, announced that Kurdish parliamentary elections will be held on 17 May, IRNA reported. Talabani said the United Nations, European Parliament, and Iranian, Syrian, and Turkish legislatures have been invited to supervise the "soundness" of the voting. The Kurdish leader accused the Iraqi Government of having a "hostile" attitude toward the elections, adding that "the dictator Saddam" is trying to obstruct them, the news agency added.

Afghanistan

UN negotiator Benon Sevan met mojahedin military commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in Mazar-e Sharif on 22 April, AFP disclosed. The two were reportedly discussing the viability of a mojahedin interim government in Kabul, according to the news agency.

Israel

The construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has become "one of the cornerstones" of the government's policy, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted. Speaking at a rally in Jerusalem on the eve of the Knesset elections, Shamir remarked that the occupied territories "are ours and will remain ours forever and ever," according to Jerusalem radio.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi on Cairo Talks, Jordan Ties, 'Arafat

JN1704134592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within the "With the Events" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, you returned from Egypt after meeting with senior Egyptian officials, advisers, and experts. What were the topics that the Palestinian side discussed and what can be of help during the upcoming bilateral negotiations?

['Ashrawi] Our visit to Egypt was part of official meetings and Palestinian efforts to promote the delegation's performance and Arab coordination. The Palestinian and Egyptian sides held an intensive seminar to review past negotiations and historical documentation and to assess the previous rounds.

[Mu'addi] What advice did Egyptian President Husni Mubarak give to the Palestinian side regarding the peace process?

['Ashrawi] Talks with Egyptian President Mubarak were comprehensive. We assessed what had taken place. He said that the Palestinian performance was distinguished, positive, and responsible, and he conveyed to us the testimony of many people about the Palestinian delegation's performance. He talked about Egypt's commitment to the peace process and the need for coordination. He also promised to intensify coordination among the participating states prior to the multilateral talks, and promised to help Gazans alleviate their educational and travel difficulties, as well as the problems of those in Egypt. We also discussed Egypt's role in overcoming Arab crises following the Gulf war, patching up the Arab rift, and resuming Gulf and Saudi support for the occupied territories.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, press reports said that during its talks with the Egyptian authorities the Palestinian side would ask Egypt to claim the Gaza Strip during the upcoming negotiations. What do you say about that?

['Ashrawi] These reports are absolutely unfounded. They are rumors, and we did not discuss any such issue. [sentence indistinct]

[Mu'addi] [Words indistinct] reflect the chill in Palestinian-Jordanian relations at this particular time?

['Ashrawi] On the contrary, Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is good, positive, and fruitful. There is no reason for a chill in relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. After several months of preparation and coordination with Jordan and holding intensive sessions, it was clear that there was a need to expand coordination in light of the multilateral talks. This has actually taken place. We held talks with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir on the results of the seminar and our meetings in Egypt. When the rest of the delegation arrives in Amman, these issues, as well as coordination with Jordan, will be discussed. We will also hold intensive meetings with the Jordanian side later this week to prepare for the upcoming round.

[Mu'addi] Let us go back a little and talk about the statements that you made after the disappearance of Yasir 'Arafat's plane.

['Ashrawi] During that difficult period my statements were clear and frank. When I was asked if his martyrdom meant the collapse of the PLO and the cause or the beginning of a power struggle, I said that we still hoped that he was alive. This is what happened, God be praised. I said that it would not mean the collapse of the PLO, which has democratic institutions; an end to the cause; or the beginning of a power struggle. My statements were distorted, however. This caused some confusion. But matters have been made clear, and the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories are aware of these statements and have overcome that phase, as well as attempts by some tendentious media organs to create division, distort our image, and launch attacks against some persons, the peace process, and the Palestinian side.

[Mu'addi] Did the Palestinian side meet with Yasir in Cairo?

['Ashrawi] First, in my opinion, Israeli media officials or politicians have nothing to do with this. Second, if they want to know, they have to ask the PLO directly.

[Mu'addi] Thank you Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

'Ashrawi—Rome Likely Site of Future Peace Talks

NC2104072292 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 16-22 Apr 92 p 2

[Excerpt] Rome has emerged as the most likely site for future Arab-Israeli peace negotiations once they move out of Washington, Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY.

'Ashrawi was in Cairo this week along with Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Nabil Sha'th for a seminar on the "strategy of negotiations" conducted at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

The bilateral peace negotiations between Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Lebanon are scheduled to be resumed on 27 April in Washington. 'Ashrawi said there is a trend towards the following round, at Israel's insistence, being held outside, possibly in Rome. But no final decision has been taken yet by the co-sponsors of the talks—the United States and Russia.

'Ashrawi said that Italian Senate Speaker Giovanni Spadolini, who visited Israel recently, suggested Rome as the site of future negotiations. "We were positive and he informed us that Israel too was positive," 'Ashrawi said.

Faysal al-Husayni, who acts as a supervisor to the Palestinian delegation, said that "in view of Israel's insistence on moving the talks out of Washington, and our opposition to this, the talks may well move to Rome."

Al-Husayni said a Palestinian precondition in the choice of a venue for the negotiations is that "we should have a high-level representation there so that we may not face a problem in entering that country."

Rome, he said, is a "good choice because we have good relations with Italy and will not face the problems which we encountered in entering Washington."

As for the coming Washington round, 'Ashrawi said the Palestinian demands centre on a halt to Jewish settlement of the occupied lands, respect for the human rights of the Palestinians and the establishment of a Palestinian authority, during an interim phase, by means of free and democratic elections.

But she complained of what she described as an "imbalance between an occupying force and a people under occupation. If we refuse to enter the negotiations, the settlement activity will not stop. And since we entered the negotiations, we should demand a halt to settlements," she said.

'Ashrawi said it would be naive to argue that there is no difference between the Likud bloc and the Labor Party "for the difference is essential. It would be naive also to say that if the Israeli opposition wins the elections, all our problems will be solved.

"The Likud does not want the negotiations and does not want peace. Labor wants the negotiations and wants a peace settlement, but on its own terms," she said.

'Ashrawi said the Palestinians have a comprehensive plan for a transitional period and the transfer of authority to a Palestinian autonomous government. This government, she said, should exercise authority over the land, the people, the water and other natural resources. "Here, a collision with Israel is inevitable because it has a plan that is diametrically opposed to our viewpoint and also to our rights," she said. [passage omitted]

Delegation To Withdraw If U.S. Backs Loans

JN2104170392 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has emphasized that one of the top priorities for the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks scheduled to begin on 28 April [date as heard] is to put a complete end to settlement activities and to ask Washington to intervene to pressure Israel to accept the land for peace principle.

In a press interview published in Tunis today, it was learned that the Palestinian delegation will withdraw from the talks if the U.S. Administration extends loan guarantees to Israel.

For his part, brother Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory council to the Palestinian delegation, has pointed out that the Israelis are trying to escalate matters to force the Palestinians to take conflicting positions or to withdraw from the peace process with their constant attempts to make the procedural issues complicate the negotiating process. He urged the cosponsors to intervene to stop this subversive action by Israel.

'Abd-al-Shafi—Municipal Elections Israeli Ploy

TA1904151992 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 17 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akir]

[Text] Jerusalem—Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has accused Israel of raising the issue of municipal elections in the occupied territories with the aim of downplaying the negotiations' importance and persuading the Palestinians to accept the self-rule which Israel is proposing as a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In a statement to AL-FAJR, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "Israel wants to downplay the importance of the current negotiations and persuade the residents to give up their demand for self-determination and an independent state, suggesting that the residents have no alternative but to accept self-rule and that the municipalities are the way to address this."

It is worth noting that on 14 April Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens proclaimed the Israeli authorities' intention to appoint committees to run the municipalities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in preparation for holding municipal elections. He expressed his belief that Hebron would be the first town in which municipal elections would be held.

'Abd-al-Shafi called for the postponement of this issue so that the focus will be on the negotiations, adding: "I believe that the focus must be on the negotiations process. Should this process succeed, the elections and other issues will fall within this framework."

The head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation believes that raising the issue of municipal elections or any other subject diverts the residents' attention to marginal issues, whereas interest should be focused on the negotiations process.

Nevertheless, 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized that popular consensus on municipal elections will end any argument over this issue. Answering a question about the conditions formulated at the popular meeting in Hebron two

days ago, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "The important thing is that there should be popular consensus on the issue. I do not want the topic to become a source of discord inside the occupied territories. If there is a popular consensus, I will respect that consensus."

It is worth noting that Hebron institutions put forward seven conditions for holding municipal elections, the most important of which are that there should be a national consensus for holding the elections and that they must be held simultaneously in all West Bank and Gaza Strip towns. In addition, the principle of appointing municipal committees was rejected.

Delegate Urges Independent Territories Elections

JN1904161192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has emphasized the need to hold political elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to produce a national authority represented by a legislative assembly which would in turn produce administrative and executive authority in the occupied territories.

In statements to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY prior to the departure of some members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation from Amman to the occupied West Bank after taking part in a political seminar in Cairo on negotiation strategies with Israel, Dr. al-'Akir affirmed that the Palestinians will not accept the municipal elections plan called for by Israel as an alternative to political elections. He added that coordination talks will be held in Amman by the end of this week and the beginning of next week between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to peace talks when all members of the Palestinian delegation arrive in Amman en route to Washington for a new round of peace talks.

For his part, Ilyas Frayj, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, said that a just, durable, and comprehensive peace will not be achieved in the region unless Israel withdraws from the territories, subscribes to the equation of trading land for peace, and implements the resolutions of international legitimacy. He termed Jordanian-Palestinian ties historical and affirmed that the ties binding the two peoples are inextricable. He said that he who strives to achieve peace must halt settlement building and the plundering of land, show respect for Palestinian rights, and give up the policy of repression.

Fatah 'Conflict' Noted Over 'Arafat Succession

NC1904133992 Cairo MENA in English 1301 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Amman, April 19 (MENA)—Conflict is under way among three Fatah leaders on who would succeed Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, the weekly newspaper "SHIHAN" said today.

The paper said that the three Fatah Movement figures are Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO diplomatic department; Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

The paper added that elections held recently at the Fatah fifth conference showed the three leaders in the lead due to their flexibility and moderation and their commitment to the Fatah strategy.

The paper further said that the issue of Arafat's successor might be debated at the upcoming Palestinian National Council to be held in Tunis next month.

DFLP Head Calls for PLO Leadership Reforms

JN2004132792 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Apr 92 pp 20, 16

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has called for rebuilding PLO institutions before the convening of the PLO Central Council. He said that this should be carried out on the basis of collective leadership and broad democratic reform in order to put an end to the violations of the resolutions of the PLO's legislative and executive establishments.

In a telephone conversation yesterday from Algiers with SAWT AL-SHA'B, he described the current political division within the PLO as something that was caused by violating the resolutions of legitimacy, which has adversely reflected on the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories.

He added that Yasir 'Arafat's airplane accident should encourage the Palestinians to search for real democratic ways to build internal relations which respect pluralism and other opinions in order to lead national reconciliation within the Palestinian house. These relations should observe the resolutions of the PLO's legislative authorities.

Replying to a question about the PLO Central Council's expected meeting, he said that his front is currently holding a broad dialogue with all the Palestinian forces and figures inside and outside the occupied homeland in order to shape up a number of plans and resolutions for presentation to the Central Council. The most prominent of these resolutions is a call for either halting settlements or suspending the negotiations, and correcting the Palestinian representation at the negotiations by considering that we are a people and not communities.

Hawatimah expressed his readiness to open a new dialogue with the Israeli quarters that are ready to discuss a compromise based on the withdrawal from the Palestinian territories by applying Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, halting settlements, implementing the

Fourth Geneva Convention, and dealing with the Palestine question as a people's cause, national rights, and a unified representation.

He said that he believed that Yitzhaq Rabin's peace plan deals with the Palestinian people's national cause and inalienable rights as an issue of Arab inhabitants or a community that should be resolved within the framework of the old and famous Labor Party plan dubbed the division of labor and the Jordanian option.

On the negotiating process, Hawatimah emphasized that the Madrid team does not represent the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, in Jerusalem, or in the diaspora. This team represents a narrow group and social sector because the majority of the factions within the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah do not participate in the Madrid formula, and therefore a division has taken place within this team.

Hawatimah called for all-out Arab reconciliation in order to establish Arab relations based on the minimum concepts for joint interests after the collapse of Arab solidarity and the relapse of the joint pan-Arab posture to the zero level. He also warned that failure to achieve Arab solidarity will lead every Arab country to an unknown destiny.

PLO Official Urges Collective Decisionmaking

JN2204100292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Apr 92 p 32

[Text] 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that Palestinian political differences over the peace process must not prevent the PLO Central Council, scheduled to meet on 7 May in Tunis, from achieving Palestinian consensus on safeguarding the intifadah and resolving any problems facing it so as to ensure its continuity and development.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Malluh said that what happened to president 'Arafat should steer the PLO in one direction only—that is, to make Palestinian decisionmaking democratic and collective, and to give precedence to the institution over individuals.

He added: The PLO's internal situation requires that the PLO Central Council take a responsible position in its next meeting. He also urged the reconsideration of the PLO Central Council's powers and bylaws, re-forming the Central Council's committees, remedying the mechanism of PLO decisionmaking, and addressing other issues that have had negative effects on the Palestinian people's struggle.

He also called on the PLO Central Council to address the situation of the Palestinian people in the diaspora, pointing out that the suffering of Palestinians in Kuwait is still continuing and that there is also political and social suffering in Lebanon.

Malluh added that the next PLO Central Council meeting should reassert the decisions made at previous sessions on the confederation between Jordan and Palestine so that there will be no room for the different interpretations that crop up from time to time.

He also said that efforts should now be concentrated on how to end Israeli occupation, achieve Palestinian self-determination, and establish a Palestinian state on Palestinian land, asserting that if matters take a different course now this will complicate the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship.

As for Palestinian participation in the multilateral committees next May, Malluh said that the PLO Central Council will assess the entire political process. As for the previous and later multilateral committees, there is a Palestinian decision not to participate in spite of voices in the Palestinian arena and pressures on the PLO calling for Palestinian participation. He said that this issue will figure high on the Council's agenda because it is part of the political process.

He added: We have no interest in participating in the multilateral committees because Israel does not acknowledge that the 1967 occupied territories are occupied, nor does it recognize Palestinian self-determination.

Answering a question on the blockade against Libya, Malluh called on all forces in the region to recognize their common national and pan-Arab interests in the face of U.S. threats, pointing out that the fate of the nation is not determined by U.S. terror tactics or contingent on U.S. actions.

He added that the major aim of the United States is to control oil and the resources of the region. Israel is a major element in this context. Therefore, these Arab forces should not pin much hope on the possibility of the United States pressuring Israel because the United States recognizes that in order for it to protect its basic interests there has to be a strong Israel.

PLO's Khalid Previews Central Council Meeting

JN1804102392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
18 Apr 92 p 35

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee member Taysir Khalid has emphasized that the PLO Central Council which will convene on 7 May will discuss organizational conditions in the PLO and its establishments to establish standard operating procedures that guarantee the distribution of responsibilities within the Executive Committee. This is aimed at leading to a stage when democratic relations will prevail among all national factions.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Khalid added that the Council will discuss the formation of a secretariat for the Executive Committee and [electing] a number of deputies to the PLO chairman, on the basis of the formula that was decided during the preparatory meetings for the

unity session of the Palestine National Council in 1987, and in accordance with the Algiers-Aden agreement. [passage omitted]

Khalid emphasized that the PLO Central Council will discuss Palestinian participation in the multilateral negotiating committees which begin their meetings in May.

The PLO Executive Committee member warned of the repercussions from hasty statements which hint that the PLO has already approved Palestinian participation, because the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council have yet to discuss this subject. However, a vast majority in the Executive Committee and the Central Council want this participation to fall within a framework that guarantees the PLO's right to represent its people in these committees and to choose the right time for this participation.

He added that there is no use for Palestinian participation in these committees before the realization of essential progress in the bilateral negotiations, and before clear and unambiguous recognition by the U.S. Administration that this participation is based on the unity of the Palestinian people as represented by the PLO and the PLO's right to name its delegation. As for those who started speaking about Palestinian participation, they should take into consideration the popular Palestinian position which rejects the formula that the U.S. Administration has tried to impose on the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Rejects Use of Force Against Libya

JN2104165492 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has warned against the use of force against Libya. He emphasized that the Arabs will not tolerate the use of force against it twice.

In an interview published in London yesterday, 'Arafat said that the use of force against Libya to make it hand over the two Libyan citizens accused in the Lockerbie affair is unjustified and will lead to instigating action by the Arab nation against the West.

'Arafat Begins North Africa Visit

Meets Iraqi Official in Libya

JN1804194892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Apr (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has received an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation in Tripoli. The delegation is headed by 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Ba'th Party Foreign Relations Bureau, who is currently on a visit to Libya.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings and congratulations over the Palestinian president's safe escape from the airplane accident.

They also reviewed the latest Arab developments, the aggression and savage blockade to which Iraq has been subjected, and the Western threats against Libya. They also discussed the growing, blessed Palestinian intifadah against the Zionist enemy authorities.

President Yasir 'Arafat asked the Iraqi Command member to convey his brotherly greetings and deep gratitude to leader President Saddam Husayn for his concern over the Palestinian president's health and his congratulations on 'Arafat's safe escape from the airplane accident.

Arrives in Mauritania

AB2004185092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 0730 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Nouakchott yesterday after a few hours' visit to Mauritania. (?During the visit) he first held discussions with President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. They were later joined by Mauritanian and Palestinian delegations. President 'Arafat was seen off by Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker, the official in charge of special duties and adviser at the Presidency, the Palestinian ambassador to Nouakchott, the Arab diplomatic corps [word indistinct] and the mayor of Nouakchott.

The Palestinian president told the press that he was satisfied with the outcome of the visit, which was a fortunate opportunity to visit the head of state the day following his inauguration. He then thanked the Mauritanian people and president for their sympathy after the air crash in which he was recently involved. Mr. 'Arafat stated that he noted once again the degree of affection for the head of state and the Mauritanian people.

We also discussed the situation in the Arab world and in the (?world in general). I briefed him, in his capacity as the current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, on the outcome of the Middle East negotiations. Yasir 'Arafat pointed out: We emphasized the importance of a unified Arab stand of solidarity to face the challenges confronting the Arab nation, adding that the crisis between Libya and some Western countries was also discussed.

The Palestinian leader is leading a delegation comprising Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister, and ('Abd-al-Khalid), the adviser in charge of foreign relations.

Details Talks With President

LD2104085192 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Nouakchott this evening following a visit to our country which lasted one day during which he held private talks

with his brother Mr. Maaouyia Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Republic. These talks were widened later to include members of the two delegations. [passage omitted]

[Begin 'Arafat recording] The visit was a good occasion to discuss the Arab situation and the international situation, as I presented his excellency the president with details not only in view of the fact of him being the president of Mauritania but also in view of the fact of his now being the chairman of the Maghreb summit, with the details of the peace talks—those held at the recent round in Washington and before that, the round in Moscow, and the upcoming round in Washington.

I also gave him the details of the quadripartite position [Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese] in the bilateral talks. We discussed with the brother president and heard his advice in this regard on the multilateral talks and the importance of a homogenous and cohesive Arab stand before their start, which will be around the 12th of next month, in addition to the Arab situation, especially following the crisis that resulted from the resolutions for besieging the brothers in Libya, and the importance of the existence of a cohesive Arab stand. [passage omitted]

We also discussed the importance of the meeting of Arab foreign ministers which will be held on 28 April in Cairo and the importance of us coming out with solidarity resolutions in which we transcend the little sensitivities. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Arrives in Morocco

LD2104085692 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Morocco a short while ago.

He was welcomed upon his arrival at Rabat-Sale Airport by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and by the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Rabat.

Meets With King Hassan

LD2104090592 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] King Hassan II paid a visit this evening to Palestinian president Mr. Yasir 'Arafat at his residence in Rabat.

His majesty was received, in addition to the Palestinian president, by Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], Palestinian foreign minister; Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PLO external relations committee; Abu-Marwan, Palestinian ambassador accredited to Rabat; the staff of the embassy; and other dignitaries accompanying the Palestinian president on his visit to Morocco.

Talks then took place between King Hassan II and Palestinian president Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. The talks were attended from the Moroccan side by Mr. Ahmed Ben Souda, his majesty's adviser; Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; and Driss Basri, minister of interior and information; and from the Palestinian side by Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister; Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PLO external relations committee; and Abu-Marwan, Palestinian ambassador to Rabat.

After the talks the monarch bade the Palestinian president farewell.

Algeria

FIS Calls On Citizens 'To Take Up Arms'

NC2204072392 Paris AFP in English 0712 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Algiers, April 22 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) called on Algerians to take up arms to overthrow the military-backed regime, in an underground publication received Wednesday by AFP.

It was the first time the FIS has directly urged Algerians to rise up against the regime which seized power in January and aborted elections which would have brought the FIS to power.

The FIS, in its bulletin Minbar al-Jum'ah (Friday news), urged Algerians to "move from words to rifles after the failure of attempts at dialogue."

"I will seek a rifle to liberate my country," said the author of the unsigned appeal. "There is resistance to oppression and we are prepared to sacrifice millions (of people) to save Algeria."

The appeal was dated Monday, the day before the jailed head of the FIS Abdelkader Hachani appeared in court charged with inciting troops to mutiny.

Hachani's lawyers said the incitement charges had been dropped, but the court had ordered the FIS leader to be kept in jail on other unspecified charges.

Details Casualties, Arrests

NC2204083792 Paris AFP in English 0810 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By Hassan Zenati]

[Excerpts] Algiers, April 22 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) called on Algerians to take up arms to overthrow the military-backed regime, in an underground publication received Wednesday by AFP. [passage omitted] It was not clear whether the clandestine news bulletin reflected the official position of the FIS leadership, most of whom are now in jail. [passage omitted]

In its call to arms, Minbar al-Jum'ah said "the junta"—FIS terminology for the High State Council collegial presidency headed by Mohamed Boudiaf—had installed "a dictatorship in every sense of the word."

"An entire nation has been reduced to the status of suspect under police supervision," it said.

"The junta approves, legalises and justifies barbarity: the deaths of some 200 Algerians, more than 700 others wounded by bullets, more than 60,000 interrogated, more than 30,000 arrested and more than 10,000 deported to concentration camps while as many again are languishing in prison."

The official toll of security force action against the fundamentalists is fewer than 100 dead, about 2,000 sentenced and some 7,000 held in seven "security centres" in the Sahara desert.

"France in colonial times, Nazi Germany or fascist Italy did not do as much in such a short time," the FIS newsletter said.

"Millions of Algerians live in daily fear of being arrested or abducted, even shot, when they leave their homes, schools, universities, factories, mosques or walk down the street," the publication said.

The FIS was poised for an overwhelming victory in January's legislative elections when the second round of polls were cancelled.

State To Review Case Against FIS Head Hachani

LD2104200192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The charge chamber of the Algiers Judicial District has ordered that the case of Abdelkader Hachani [provisional leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS] should be referred to the investigating judge to reexamine the case following the suit filed against him by the National Defense Ministry. Ahmed Megaache reports:

[Megaache] The referring order came after the closed session of the charge chamber today in which Abdelkader Hachani and his defense lawyers were heard. The charge chamber partially dismissed the charges of humiliating a public body and deliberately distributing false information, which are stipulated in the penal code. According to the defense lawyers the case will be referred by the investigating judge to the magistrates court.

A reminder: Mr. Hachani was accused by the National Defense Ministry of distributing leaflets inciting the Army to disobey orders.

After all this we have also learned from the lawyers of the FIS that the higher court will examine the case of the dissolution of the FIS on 26 April 1992.

Hachani Faces Incitement Charges

LD2204002692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The court of criminal appeals of the Algiers Judicial District today dropped the charges against Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, an official in the provisional national executive bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front. The court decided to refer Mr. Hachani to an examining magistrate to face new charges.

According to the Algerian press agency, Mr. Hachani is now charged, under Article 87 of the Information Law, with inciting people to commit crimes and offenses against the state's authority and security. This law stipulates that using the media to incite people to commit crimes and offenses against the state's security and

authority and against national unity may result in the instigator, as well as the publisher of the newspaper used, receiving a prison sentence ranging from one to five years in addition to a fine of 10,000 to 100,000 Algerian dinars. The accused, however, will face only either the jail sentence or the fine if their action does not lead to any consequences.

Rights League Urges Detention Camps' Closure

LD2104144392 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Algeria—The security centers where some 7,000 Islamists are being detained are under discussion again; the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights [LADDH] is calling for the abolition of these centers. Anne Dissez reports:

[Dissez] With summer approaching the opening and continuation of the security centers deeply affects the political debate in Algeria. Accounts from freed detainees nearly all emphasize the fact that they did not suffer any ill-treatment, but they note on the other hand that with the start of the first summer heat that the situation in these camps will be unbearable. Mohamed Boudiaf and Ali Haroun, the chairman and member of the Higher State Council, have each said in the last few days that putting some 7,000 people in security camps over 12 months was the price to be paid for national stability.

It is certain that these statements have aroused the anger of Maitre Ali Yahia Abdennour, chairman of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, who on behalf of his steering committee, which is meeting in Oran, declared that the detainees are suffering today from pyschological disorders, that the deaths of some of them are disguised as accidents, and that movements for revolt are taking place in these camps. Fearing the worst, the LADDH steering committee is demanding that urgent measures be taken to avert the danger. It even suggests the need to form a provisional government for national recovery to restore calm, and it demands a return to universal suffrage.

The families of detainees held a meeting yesterday, Monday, outside Blida Wilaya to demand the closure of the camps. This is Anne Dissez in Algiers for RFI.

Egypt

Mubarak Meets al-Qadhdhafi on 'Crisis'

Three-Hour Talks Held

NC2104160892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have concluded their talks, which lasted over three hours and included a luncheon held in Col. al-Qadhdhafi's honor. The talks dealt with the Libyan-Western crisis. Brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi left the Western Command Zone of Sidi Barrani for Libya. President Mubarak also left the area.

President Mubarak said the talks were part of consultations with Libya to find a solution to the current crisis, which includes the aerial blockade against sisterly Libya. Mubarak said: There are many aspects involved in this issue. We are looking to solve the crisis.

Responding to a question on the interaction of Egyptian and pan-Arab interests, President Mubarak said: A ray of hope exists but effort is needed for that ray to increase. Egyptian interests are part of pan-Arab ones. We should not deny this. Egypt's influence allows it to hold contacts with various sides in an effort to overcome the crisis.

Mubarak was asked if he is optimistic that a peaceful solution will be found. He responded: We are not in a state of war. We are thinking of a solution. We should not even mention the term military solution. Military solutions are not useful in our time. Such solutions only succeed in accumulating hatred and complicating matters. Military solutions throughout the world have led to nothing but havoc.

Mubarak said that Egypt's policy is clear and straightforward, and that Egypt always expresses its policy clearly and directly.

Mubarak said that he does not believe any further measures will be taken against Libya for the time being, adding that he hopes the issue will be resolved before any further measures are taken.

Al-Qadhdhafi Departs 21 Apr

NC2104142692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Al-Sallum, 21 Apr (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, left al-Sallum for Tripoli this afternoon, following a brief visit during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak.

Commentaries View Impact of Sanctions on Libya

'Conflicting' Libyan Statements

NC2104183092 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Apr 92 pp 1, 8

[Editorial by Chief Editor Ibrahim Si'dah: "'Change' is the Solution"]

[Text] The safety and well-being of the brotherly Libyan people are of utmost importance to us. We also find it crucial that the world—as represented in the United Nations and its Security Council—find a peaceful solution to the Libyan problem, which surfaced so suddenly on the world scene, upstaging other events, as if the world did not already have enough worries, disasters, and catastrophes.

The UN Security Council resolutions imposing an aerial blockade on Libya are binding on all UN member countries, regardless of their views on these resolutions. It is, therefore, simply astonishing to hear some voices calling on the Arabs to take a common stand, reject the sanctions, and refuse to implement them. Those who make such calls are only deceiving themselves. They know that rejecting the sanctions would broaden the scope of the blockade and boycott to include the countries ignoring the sanctions. Those countries would then be subjected to the same perils and sanctions now facing Libya.

For example, I do not think the Egyptian people—regardless of how much they love the Libyans or how "impressed" they are with brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—would be happy to see the UN Security Council pass a resolution imposing an aerial boycott against Egypt and imposing international isolation against it because it refuses to implement sanctions against sisterly Libya.

Moreover, the childish stand advocated by some people may harm the "Greater Jamahiriyah" in worse ways and spoil attempts by prudent Arabs to contain the crisis and save that country from the problems it is facing today and worse ones that it may face tomorrow.

The brother Libyans would be greatly mistaken to believe these slogans or to think that the Arab world and the Islamic world will rise from their long slumber to set the world on fire to avenge the ruling regime in Libya. Does this sound familiar?

Not long ago, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn imagined that the Arab and Islamic nations would back him and oppose any action against him under the slogan that "any attack against Iraq is an attack against Arabs and Muslims throughout the world." When the day of reckoning came, the Iraqi president discovered that he was alone in the battle and that he was getting punished, his country was being destroyed, and his helpless nation was being humiliated. The few opportunistic "Arab leaders" who supported him, encouraged him, and fed him with false dreams of leadership were the first to turn their back on him when he was brought to his knees. Now those same leaders are making fun of him. None of them has gone to see him, not even to console him.

This does not mean that the Arabs should wash their hands of the Libyan problem or satisfy themselves by "watching" what is happening to Libya and what may happen if the crisis reaches an impasse. On the contrary, I expect all Arab leaders to spend their time and effort to contain the crisis and find a mutually acceptable peaceful solution. But I have to add that such an objective will be hard, even impossible, unless the Libyan regime earnestly and sincerely cooperates with the Arab leaders seeking a solution.

I believe that the problem with the Libyan regime is basically that the international community has no faith in the frequently conflicting Libyan statements. What one Libyan politician says in the morning is overruled by another in the afternoon. All the calm words uttered by the brother colonel to placate the world governments and to portray a new image are contradicted, day and night, by Libyan radio and by endless popular demonstrations in Libyan streets.

No sooner would the Libyan ruler point in one direction than his second in command—Jallud—would point in a diametrically opposite direction. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi announces his rejection of terrorism and holds out his hand to all countries for the establishment of normal relations. Meanwhile, Libyan radio, television, and press are maintaining their traditional campaign against all countries, branding them imperialist, reactionary, and opportunistic. Just for good measure, they are even calling some presumably friendly and brotherly Arab leaders sheeps and pigs.

The world public does not understand what is going on in Tripoli.

In the beginning, some imagined that there was a power struggle going on and that every player had his own opinion and mouthpiece. This impression soon disappeared. Many came to the conclusion that the conflicting positions were merely different parts of the same scenario—a good-cop, bad-cop script—and that the objective was to maintain the same old Libyan policies and style.

The truth may be that the Libyan president [title as published] truly wants to save his regime and spare his people any future trouble. It is my opinion, however, that there is only way to get out of the current crisis: "Change." I do not mean that the ruling regime should change and that al-Qadhdhafi should withdraw from the scene. This is the concern of the Libyan people alone; only they have the right to chose their leader and regime. What I mean is there is a need to change policies, stands, and faces.

It is not wrong for Col. al-Qadhdhafi to reconsider all his achievements and setbacks since he took power. It is not shameful for the ruling regime in Tripoli to retract from policies whose failure has been proven, from theories proven absurd, slogans by which their advocates make a living, and from interference in the domestic affairs of all world countries that only brought about Libya's isolation. It is high time that Libya reconsider all these matters and many more. It is unreasonable for Col. al-Qadhdhafi to call for accord and peace with the whole world when his trumpets continue to slander everything. It is unreasonable to believe that mediators seeking to extricate Libya from its current predicament can make the international community listen to them while Libyan officials continue to slander and threaten.

The only solution lies in change. Unless the world makes sure that the Libyan regime does indeed endorse this solution, I do not believe it is possible for Libya to emerge from its current impasse. What would Col. al-Qadhdhafi lose if he made a decision changing his

country's name from the great, socialist, and Jamahiriyah, to a more modest name, such as "the Libyan republic?"

What would Col. al-Qadhdhafi lose if he changed the unique regime represented by so-called "people's committees" to one with a government, ministries, embassies, and ambassadors, like all other countries? What would Col. al-Qadhdhafi lose if he said that political parties could be established or if he allowed elections so that candidates could compete and winners could form a people's assembly, a parliament. The party that wins a majority of votes in the parliament would form a responsible cabinet.

What would Col. al-Qadhdhafi lose if he allowed freedom of the press or party newspapers to be published to debate issues?

What would Col. al-Qadhdhafi lose if he asked his upcoming information minister to cancel the current media policy and draft a new one similar to those of other countries which respect a man's mind and the right of people to know the facts without distortion?

I have often listened to Libyan radio but did not believe what I heard. I could not believe that people agree, or even tolerate, hearing—around the clock and for many years—drums beaten to rally the masses to wage battles and destroy enemies: the capitalists, the communists, the socialists, and the reactionaries. Years go by and no battles begin, no armies are massed, nothing is destroyed, and the reactionary and capitulationist regimes do not fall, nor does imperialism or Zionism. Only the communist regimes fall and, as far as I know, the Libyan media did not have a hand in this demise.

One look at the extent of the Libyan citizens' interest in reading the Egyptian papers, smuggled across the border, their fondness in viewing the Egyptian Space Channel, and their following of Cairo radio, would be enough to convince Col. al-Qadhdhafi of the importance of abolishing his information policy and media reports, which no one in his country reads, views, or hears, except, of course, those who write, take pictures, or announce them.

What would the brother colonel lose if he opens a new chapter with all the countries, one based on mutual respect with the aim of serving the interest of his country and people?

There are approximately 2 million people in Libya. God has granted the Libyan people a huge supply of oil. If the Libyan regime had used the revenues of this black gold—since it assumed power in the sixties—to promote the standard of the people, Libyans would enjoy the highest standard of living in the entire world.

I do not wish to discuss what the Libyan citizen has and what he does not have. We all know the truth and we do not want to be pained by the past as long as there is hope in the future. Had such changes taken place in Libya its image would have changed from one extreme to the other. Instead of having only Egypt, whose president has made every effort and used his time to enable the Libyan regime and people ride out their crisis, Libya would have seen scores of countries ready to give Libya a new chance so that the international community would accept it as a useful, moderate, and civilized member.

Libya will not be the only beneficiary by such a change. All the Arabs will benefit. When the world finds out that the Arabs sided with international legitimacy and that they respected international law, it will not be difficult to force Israel to respect international legitimacy and to implement all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Indeed, Col. al-Qadhdhafi wants a solution to the Palestinian issue and wants the Palestinian people to obtain their rights and land and to determine their future. The brother colonel should seize this chance to contribute toward achieving this indisputable national objective.

One last word to the brother colonel: The AL-AHRAM correspondent in Tobruk, Libya, has passed along a complaint from Egyptian citizens there. The message is that the treatment of Egyptians by Libyans has changed for the worse. They also said that some Libyans are provoking them following reports that Egypt decided to comply with the Security Council resolutions.

My question to the brother colonel is: Is this the best way to reward Egypt and its people for their supportive stand toward your regime and country? Is this the best way to reward Egypt's president, who had spared no efforts to convince the world powers to change their hostile attitude toward your country? Had it not been for the extraordinary efforts that President Husni Mubarak has made and continues to make—efforts that you have appreciated—the worst would have already occurred in Libya, as you well know.

Libyan Restraint Urged

NC2004161092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Apr 92 p 14

[Mustafa Amin column: "Idea"]

[Text] The Libyan people must control themselves. The situation permits neither playing with fire nor adding oil to the blaze which has flared up next to us. We have stood by Libya to the extent we can and have exerted every effort and all our influence to avert the catastrophe which threatens the independence, sovereignty, and prosperity of a fraternal country. We must admit that a small country cannot challenge three major powers, although it can stand fast against the punishment that has been imposed against it. This does not mean we should repeat the mistakes that have led to this calamity; it means we should avert a new catastrophe.

Libya can tolerate the ban on passenger flights to and from its territory. It can do without air mail and without medicine and foodstuffs transported by plane. This will keep the

sanctions within their present framework. But if reaction to the sanctions takes the form of assassinations, hijackings, and bombings in major capitals, this will take us from the first phase to the second—banning oil exports and enforcing an economic blockade. This will bring hardships to the Libyan people and will stifle the Libyan Government. We also do not want to move to the third phase, that of military aggression. No matter how much power, courage, and food supplies Libya has, it cannot withstand the capabilities of three major countries.

The United States, Britain, and France must learn that no country's supremacy is permanent. They must know that times change and that three major countries cannot dictate their will to smaller states forever.

What would the United States have done if Iran had been a major country and the United States had downed an Iranian airliner carrying hundreds of innocent people? What would the United States have done if Iran had urged that it be punished and had obtained a UN resolution to exact a stern penalty?

Iran did not possess the means for such a stern penalty and did not even get financial compensation for its innocent victims.

Can it be that the aggressor is governed by one logic and the weak another, and that what the strong is allowed to do the weak is not? This question must be answered.

Cairo 'Regretfully' Accepts Sanctions

NC1804162692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic GMT 92

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Egypt's Support for International Legality Represents a Constant of Egyptian Policy"]

[Text] Basic constants in Egypt's policy are the principles of mutual respect, noninterference in the domestic affairs of others, respect for international legality, and full compliance with any resolutions endorsed by the UN bodies, being the representative of the international community. Consequently, the UN resolutions represent the international will. Proceeding from these principles, Egypt complies with and implements the UN resolutions. Egypt has adopted this position and will continue to comply with it. This, however, does not mean that Egypt will sit back and simply watch developments in the Arab world.

Egypt has done and is doing all it can to overcome any problem that confronts any Arab country. Specifically speaking, and regarding the UN resolutions against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Egypt's position is positive and constructive. Since the Libyan crisis with the Western countries cropped up in November 1991, Egypt has used all its weight to contain and overcome this problem to spare fraternal Libya any harm. President Husni Mubarak's efforts yielded fruit and Egypt's diplomacy succeeded in preventing an offensive against Libya. Egypt's efforts continued in the hope of stopping the deterioration of the situation and preventing decisions which might affect not only the Libyan Jamahiriyah, but also neighboring countries. Egypt did all it could to prevent such developments.

Egypt continued its contacts with Libya and the other countries involved. The Arab League foreign ministers met in hopes of reaching the best possible solution to prevent sanctions against Libya. Although the Arab League's efforts are praiseworthy, all these efforts reached a dead end. During his latest tour, in which President Mubarak visited Turkey, Portugal, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, the Libyan problem was a priority in all his talks with these countries' leaders. After that tour and his meeting with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Mubarak said that the issue was in Libya's hands and that it alone has the cards to solve the problem, particularly as the deadline for implementing the sanctions against Libya had ended. The UN Security Council endorsed the resolutions imposing sanctions against Libya and the International Court of Justice reiterated them.

In view of this situation, we would like to emphasize two important facts: First, Egypt did all it could and held numerous intensive contacts with all the parties concerned with the problem—Libya, the Western countries, and other countries that could play a role in solving the problem. Second, being a UN member and proceeding from its full faith in and constant support for international legality, Egypt complies with the resolutions passed by the United Nations. Egypt regrets having to implement them against any Arab country closely linked to Egypt. Therefore, we reaffirm that Egypt's position stems from the foundations of its policy, with which it fully complies. Foremost of these foundations are support for international legality and compliance with its resolutions and noninterference in the domestic affairs of any country. This position was displayed during the Gulf crisis when Egypt supported the international legitimacy and contributed to the liberation of Kuwait. Egypt is completely satisfied with this position and today it regretfully accepts the UN resolutions because they are against a people who are linked to us with close bonds and relations.

AL-AHRAM Interviews Israel's Rabin on Peace

NC1904080292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0633 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin says that he will give priority in the peace negotiations to achieving progress between the Israeli and Palestinian sides by establishing autonomy at a transitional period according to the timetable charted in the Camp David accords, if he wins the coming elections and forms a government under his chairmanship.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Rabin says the Israeli-Palestinian problem cannot be resolved by military force. Equally, as he puts

it, the Palestinians cannot achieve anything through violence, throwing stones, and terrorism.

Rabin adds: We have no intention of turning 1.7 million Palestinians into Israeli citizens. In the long run we are against the Likud policy that strives for all Israeli lands. In the meantime, he adds, we have no intention of withdrawing to the pre-1967 borders, leaving Israel without security. The peace we seek is inseparable from security. A peace that provides no security is worthless, he says.

Rabin continues: We do not want to turn Israel from a Jewish state into a two-nation [thuna'iyat al-qawmiyah] state.

In the interview, Rabin reiterates that he rejects the participation of the Palestinians in the diaspora in the peace negotiations. When the paper reminds him that he agreed, in an earlier interview, to include expelled Palestinians in the talks, he explains that he was not referring to the Palestinians in the diaspora but to those deported from the "territories," using the same term used by Likud leaders to denote the occupied Arab territories.

Rabin says he supports reaching an agreement on Palestinian autonomy. He remarks that establishing that autonomy will remove any problems existing between Israel and Jordan.

He adds that Syria is the difficult problem, claiming that Syria is not yet prepared for peace.

Asked if he is willing to make regional concessions in the Golan region, Rabin says he is prepared for such a settlement but without an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan ['ala isti'dad li mithl hadhihi al-taswiyah lakin duna insihab israeli min al-julan].

Touching on the issue of the Israeli settlements, Rabin says: I distinguish between the political settlements, the issue of Jerusalem, and settling all along the confrontation line in the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights. He claims that the latter type of settlements is for security reasons, adding that he has no intention of evacuating such settlements.

Responding to a question on U.S.-Israeli relations, Rabin says that the United States represents a great treasure for Israel and that relations with it are vital for all aspects of life and a key to developing the Israeli economy and society. As an example, he says that Israel has received $21 billion in assistance from the United States in the past seven years.

Asked about the likelihood of making progress in the bilateral talks, he refuses to give details, saying that the time is not right for that. Touching on the multilateral talks, he expresses the belief that these talks are of secondary importance because they involve what will happen after peace is established and we cannot talk about that until peace is actually established.

Paper Urges Greater UN Intervention in Israel

NC2204054792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2221 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—In an editorial on Wednesday, AL-AHRAM says that it is evident that the United States, Britain, and France wish to go the greatest possible lengths to compel Libya not only to hand over the bombing suspects but also to adopt as yet unspecified measures demonstrating that it has renounced its so-called support for international terrorism and to pay reparations to the hundreds of people who lost relatives in the downing of the two planes.

AL-AHRAM adds: Now that the first chapter has ended with the imposition of sanctions on Libya because it failed to comply with UN Security Council resolutions, Arab public opinion is almost crying out to this Council to turn its attention to Israel and realize how Israel shamed it by not implementing its resolutions or any other UN resolutions.

AL-AHRAM continues: Arab public opinion hopes to see the Security Council adopt a similarly serious stance in dealing with Israeli recalcitrance and its daily terrorism against Palestinian citizens. By these actions, Israel violates all conventions and agreements, including the Geneva Convention, particularly as its acts in the occupied territories constitute a de facto war situation in accordance with the articles of this convention.

AL-AHRAM concludes: All this requires greater intervention by the Security Council, which is responsible for dealing with such cases.

UN 'Silence' on Israeli Nuclear Arms Viewed

NC2204055792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2229 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—In an editorial to be published on 22 April, AL-AKHBAR says: We are overwhelmed by sorrow and regret as we follow the UN reports on the demolition of all the sites and equipment in Iraq that are believed to have potential uses in research leading to the production of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction.

The paper continues: These feelings of sorrow and regret are not caused by the demolition of these sites and capabilities because Egypt continues to be a strong supporter of nuclear nonproliferation in the Middle East. The regret is caused by two things. The first is the squandering of huge sums belonging to the Iraqi people for the sake of a madman's illusory dream of leadership. The second is the silence about another danger in the region represented by Israel's nuclear bombs and missiles.

The paper says: At a time when some pro-Israel members of the U.S. Congress vie with each other in casting suspicion on the way certain Arab countries are using the traditional weapons they bought from the United States

with their own money to defend themselves, we do not see one single congressman or U.S. Defense Department official raising the issue of Israel's exclusive possession of a nuclear arsenal in this region. Many countries are demanding that weapons of mass destruction be eliminated from this region because of its critical importance to the world's security and peace.

Mubarak Urges Journalistic Circumspection

NC2004145892 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has asked journalists working both for the national newspapers and the newspapers owned by political parties to take into account Egypt's political and economic interests when they write. He added that some writings unintentionally have immensely adverse effects on Egypt's international relations and its economic cooperation with international institutions.

Mubarak Receives Chairman of Law Association

NC2204101592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received this morning at the Presidential Palace Lord Seline, chairman of the International Law Association based in London, and the delegation accompanying him.

After the meeting, Lord Seline said that the association's international conference, which is being held in Cairo for the first time, will discuss current international issues affecting the whole world.

He expressed his pleasure over President Mubarak's reception of the association's delegation and the fact that Cairo is hosting the conference, which is held every two years in some international capital. He added that the delegation heard President Mubarak's views on international developments.

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Council Delegation

NC2204103192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received this morning at the Presidential Palace the delegation comprising members of the Kuwaiti National Council headed by Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id.

The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur and Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari.

After the meeting, Ahmad Fathi Surur said the objective of the Kuwaiti National Council's visit is to thank the president for his supportive stands during the Iraqi invasion. They thanked the president for all his pan-Arab stands in the interest of Arab causes.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Masa'id made the following statement: We came to thank President Husni Mubarak for his stands on the Kuwaiti cause. We also thank the People's Assembly and the Egyptian people for their stands.

He said that during the meeting they held comprehensive talks on large-scale economic cooperation in various fields. We pray to God that there will be cooperation between the Kuwaiti and Egyptian people to serve the two people and our Arab homeland under the leadership of President Mubarak and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al- Ahmad al-Sabah. He expressed his good wishes to the Egyptian and Kuwaiti people for progress and prosperity.

Musa on Country's Role in Gulf Security, Peace

NC2104095792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed Egypt's intention to continue performing its pan-Arab duty of defending the independence and sovereignty of the Arab countries within the principles of the Arab League and the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Pact of the Arab League and Damascus Declaration countries.

In an interview published today by AL-WIHDAH newspaper in Abu Dhabi, Musa described relations between Egypt and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as excellent, positive, and comprehensive. He praised the fraternal relations between the leaders of the two countries, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and President Husni Mubarak.

The Egyptian foreign minister affirmed in his interview, which was carried by the UAE news agency, WAM, that Gulf security is linked to Egypt's national security and that the Egyptian Armed Forces played an honorable role in defending the independence and unity of the territories of the fraternal countries in the Arabian Gulf based on international legitimacy and respect for rights among the Gulf countries.

The foreign minister welcomed the emergence of Arab unanimity with the return of the Arab League to Cairo. He said this unanimity is our only tool to deal with the new world order to protect the essential interests of the Arab people.

The Egyptian foreign minister spoke about the new order and his views on the future of existing international disputes within this system. He said that one of the characteristics of international political relations in our time is to work on resolving disputes through peaceful means. This represents one of the basic guidelines of Egyptian foreign policy.

Musa adds: Egypt will do its utmost to implement this principle on all existing disputes and conflicts close to its borders in regions it considers vital for its political, security, and economic interests.

Regarding the peace process in the Middle East, 'Amr Musa affirmed that Egypt is exerting all its efforts to activate the peace process in coordination and cooperation with all the Arab, regional, and international parties concerned with peace and security in the region and the world. He stressed that comprehensive peace and stability cannot be achieved in the region in the absence of a just solution to the question of Palestine that is based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and includes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and setting up a state on their national soil.

Joint Communique Signed With Ecuador

NC1904130492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Ecuador and the Arab Republic of Egypt today voiced their support for efforts aimed at establishing a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, a peace that is based on the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination and the right of all the countries in the region to live in peace within internationally recognized borders.

Reiterating the principle of the nonpermissibility of the acquisition of land through force, the two sides voiced the need to continue efforts aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

This came in a joint communique issued today to mark the two-day visit to Egypt by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The communique notes Ecuadoran support for President Mubarak's initiative calling for turning the Middle East into an area free of all weapons of mass destruction and the support of the Egyptian side for the Ecuadoran president's initiative on preserving peace and security in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Cordovez signed an agreement aiming to encourage tourism in both countries. The two ministers also signed the executive program for implementing the cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries during the 1992-94 period.

Dr. Muhyi-al-Din al-Gharib, executive chairman of the Investment Agency, and the Ecuadoran foreign minister signed an agreement to encourage investment in both countries. The agreement allows the Ecuadoran side to use Egyptian free zones and Alexandria warehouses to store Ecuadoran transit trade, in accordance with Egyptian investment laws.

Zairian President Departs After Visit

NC2204094392 Cairo MENA in English 0902 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, April 22 (MENA)—Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko left here this morning with his accompanying delegation after a few days' visit to Egypt.

The Zairian president was bidden a formal farewell at the presidency in Heliopolis.

Libya

Families of Downed Libyan Airliner Issue Statement

LD2004214292 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr [April] 20, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The international conference organized by the association of the families of the victims of the Libyan civil airliner shot down by the Zionists over Sinai in 1973, concluded its proceedings last night in Tripoli.

The closing session was attended by heads and members of the diplomatic missions whose nationals were amongst the victims, families of the victims, members of the association in a number of the countries, journalists and correspondents of the Arab and international media.

The closing session was addressed by a number of participants, jurists and families of the victims expressing their unanimous view that the awful crime committed by the Zionists against a civilian aircraft which was carrying innocent women and children was a crime against humanity and and of state terrorism.

The speakers urged the international community to reopen the file of this crime and punish the perpetrators in accordance with international law.

They reaffirmed the right of the victims' families to full compensation.

At the end of its meetings, the international conference issued the following communique:

We, the members of the general international congress of the association of the families of the victims of the Libyan Arab civil airliner, shot down by the Israelis on 21st Al Nowar [February] 1973 killing 113 passengers from 11 nationalties, gathering at a meeting in Tripoli on 12-19 Al Tayr [April] 1992, would like to point out the following:

1—The Israelis' missile attack, carried out by fighter aircraft, bringing down and burning a civil airliner with peaceful and innocent civilian passengers constitutes a terrorist act, historical crime which humanity regards as disdainful, prohibited by all laws and faiths, an act which contravenes all international norms and customs. Considering all facts it is, without any doubt, a well established crime.

But this crime passed without any deterrent or punishment of the criminals and without obtaining the rights of the injured party.

2—Such an act was against defenceless innocents who were mostly children, women and elderly who were on a normal and peaceful flight in the full view of the international community which sufficed itself with fruitless condemnation, a blame which did not deter, a censor which did not prevent the tyrant from persisting in their tyranny or stop the criminals from indulging in their criminal acts.

3—The world should stand up and review the study of the history of terrorism so as to uncover it problems and sources. The voice of the aggrieved demanding their rights. [sentence as received] In the name of humanity, we urge all peace and good loving forces in the world to hoist the flag of justice and freedom the world over.

4—The members of the association reaffirm the necessity of the superiority of the principle of dialogue in international relations in lieu of the principle of force and arrogance rejected by humanity and the justice and peace loving forces in the world. They also reassert the necessity of granting the right of dialogue to all parties of the dispute to settle all international problems which threaten the international community especially the issue of international terrorism and other political matters.

5—We the members of the association of the families of the victims of the Libyan Arab airliner, who fell victim to treachery and terrorism, reiterate the need to reopen the file of this calamity which claimed victims from 11 countries of the world. We insist that the international community must punish those who took violence as their religion and terrorism as their aim to fulfill. We recall that our relatives who were killed by that aggression had neven been killers or terrorists.

Finally, the passing of 19 years on that human tragedy did not water down the fire of hatred in our hearts towards the criminals. Regardless of the length of time from the date the crime was committed, we will never forget the tyranny of the tyrants. We therefore declare to good and peace forces of our emphasis on the need to refer the matter to an international tribunal so that each side will have his due right.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Syrian Party Representatives

LD2104154792 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a delegation representing political parties in sisterly Syria which included brothers Tawfiq Salih, member of the regional command of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party in Syria; Fa'iz Isma'il, secretary general of the Socialist Unionists Party; Safwan al-Qudsi, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union Party; Yusuf Mir, member of the political bureau of the Syrian Communist Party; 'Abd al-Wahab Rashwani, member of the political bureau of the Syrian Communist Party; Sa'id Arbiyah, member of the executive committee of the Syrian Students Union; Mu'awiyah Tabba', secretary of the Syrian Lawyers Association; Sulayman Abu Salih, secretary of the regional trade unions; and Majd al-Din Nashir, secretary of the Relations Bureau in the Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Authorities Arrest 11 Officers for Coup Plot

NC2204084092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0809 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Doha, 22 Apr (MENA)—The Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ said today that Sudanese authorities have arrested more than 11 officers and a number of staff officers on charges of plotting to take power by force.

The newspaper, citing political sources in Khartoum, said that the leaders of the coup attempt, which was set to take place last Tuesday, are Colonel Haydar Isma'il [word indistinct] Army in Kurdufan Province, and Lieutenant Col. Muhammad Zayn, second in command of the armored vehicles unit.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY cited the newspaper as saying that the coup attempt leaders belong to tribes from el-Nuba, in western Sudan.

Kuwait

Minister Details Reconstruction of Oil Refineries

LD1804104792 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamud 'Abdallah al-Ruqba announced today that Kuwait has restored almost half of its refining capacity and that the repair and development of the refineries at al-Ahmadi, 'Abdallah, and al-Shu'aybah ports would be completed in 1995.

The petroleum minister briefed journalists following a tour that covered the three refineries and the oil-mixing factory which a Kuwaiti team set up to enable all oil wells to resume production. This team participated with foreign teams in putting out the oil well fires.

Dr. Hamud 'Abdallah al-Ruqba affirmed that current Kuwaiti oil production would increase by the end of the year to 1.5 million barrels per day. He also called on OPEC members states to lower the current production ceiling of the organization, which is 23 million barrels per day, due to the existence of a large oil reserve in the oil-consuming states.

Oman

Sultan Meets With Syrian President al-Asad

JN2104161392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report from Muscat by team of radio correspondents accompanying Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad]

[Excerpt] The Syrian and Omani sides began official talks by holding an expanded meeting at al-'Alam Palace this evening. This was followed by a closed meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and both the international and regional situations, and also centered on the various aspects of the Arab situation in particular.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus will give a dinner banquet which will be attended by the members of the Syrian delegation, members of the ruling Omani royal family, and senior Omani state officials. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Officials, Egyptian Foreign Minister Hold Talks

NC2004145592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa gave Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak when they met in Doha today.

The message is part of the ongoing consultations and exchange of views between the two countries on recent Arab and international developments, the peace process, and boosting bilateral cooperation and joint Arab action.

The meeting was attended by Qatari heir apparent Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah, defense minister; Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir; Ambassador Ibrahim 'Adam, assistant Egyptian foreign minister; Qatari Ambassador in Cairo Badr Muhammad al-Daf', and Egyptian Ambassador in Doha Mustafa Husayn.

The Egyptian-Qatari Higher Joint Committee meetings began in Doha this morning, the Egyptian delegation led by Foreign Minister Musa and the Qatari delegation by Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir.

At the opening session the Qatari foreign minister said that the two countries are cooperating on a high level, which is a source of pride, thanks to the instructions of Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and his brother, President Husni Mubarak. He stated that the agreements which the two countries will sign seek to regulate and boost bilateral cooperation, thus bringing it in line with recent developments. He added that cooperation between Egypt and Qatar is not confined to bilateral relations but extends to the Arab and international fields, on which the two countries share identical views on foreign policy and on continuing consultations between their leaders.

In his opening address Foreign Minister Musa underlined the depth of ties between Egypt and Qatar, saying that he hoped the Higher Joint Committee's talks would herald bilateral cooperation in all fields. Musa emphasized the need to exploit every opportunity for cooperation. He called on the Joint Higher Committee to focus on practical issues, to remove all obstacles, and to embark directly on joint projects.

Following the opening session the committee discussed reports by experts from the two countries on economic, industrial, and educational issues, scientific research, data systems, communication, transportation, tourism, and agriculture.

Egypt's Musa on Lockerbie Efforts

NC2104173792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Doha, 21 Apr (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described the outcome of the Qatari-Egyptian Higher Joint Committee meetings as fruitful and extremely positive. He said that he hopes the decisions of the meeting will be implemented quickly.

Musa held a news conference in Doha today during which he discussed the postponement of the meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers scheduled to be held on 21 April. He stated that he expects the meeting to be held in the second half of May and noted that it was postponed for specific reasons.

Musa said that proposals exist for implementing the provisions of the Damascus Declaration which have not yet been discussed by the eight countries. He did say, however, that the proposals are being discussed by the Gulf Cooperation Council and that the eight countries will have to formulate a common stand on the issues soon.

Commenting on the regular end-of-the-month Arab League Council meeting, Musa said that during the meeting all political, administrative, and technical topics on its agenda will be discussed, including the general Arab situation and Arab and international developments.

Musa reiterated that Egypt is continuing its efforts to defuse and ease the Libyan crisis as much as possible within the framework of international legitimacy and respect for the fraternal Libyan people's rights and future.

In statements carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Musa noted that Egyptian diplomacy is concentrating on avoiding any military action being taken and on stopping any more Security Council resolutions from being passed. He added that Egypt has been successful in its efforts to a certain extent, and he praised the Arab League's role in this crisis, saying that it spared no effort in discussing and following up the crisis.

Musa noted his hope that the peace talks will succeed, and declared that if they fail the situation in Israel will not be stable. He added that an Israeli withdraw from the occupied land would lead to stability and greatly benefit the Israeli people.

He emphasized the importance of recognizing the Palestinian right to self-determination, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, and a peaceful and just settlement acceptable to international legitimacy.

Musa called for (?patience) in the negotiations, noting the divarication of the Palestinian issue. He said that the Palestinian stand has heretofore been competent and well-intentioned. He noted his hope that this stand will be reciprocated by the other side.

The foreign minister said that the Hala'ib problem is going to be contained.

Egyptian-Iranian relations, Musa added, are still unsatisfactory and there are a lot of unanswered questions and numerous issues that need to be discussed to improve them.

He added that this does not mean that we should underestimate Iran's importance, saying: We do have ties with Iran; it is an Islamic state, it is linked with the Arab world, and it interacts with the Arabs.

Turkey's interest in the new CIS stems from various historical, geographical, and other aspects, Musa said, adding: Our cooperation with Turkey is open and is helping to calm the explosive situation in the Middle East.

Musa praised Qatar's development in various fields under the wise leadership of Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah.

Musa also praised the firm ties between Egypt and Qatar, saying that ties between any two states are a cornerstone in building Arab relations.

Saudi Arabia

Fifth Installment of 1992 PLO Aid Released

LD2004185692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1758 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 20 Apr (SPA)—On the orders of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh region and chairman of the popular committee for aiding the strugglers of Palestine, this year's fifth installment of aid from the funds of the popular committees was transferred to the PLO today. The installment amounts to 5,504,683 Saudi riyals. This was announced in a statement to SPA by 'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, director general of the offices of the popular committees for helping the strugglers of Palestine. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Minister Briefs Envoys on Saudi Embassy Attack

JN2104174492 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with the heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Sanaa.

During the meeting the brother minister explained the circumstances surrounding the detention of the ambassador of fraternal Saudi Arabia in Sanaa and the efforts by the Yemeni political leadership and authorities [words indistinct] overcome the problem by securing the safe release of the ambassador and arresting the perpetrators without any losses.

He also referred to the security arrangements that will be taken to prevent a recurrence of what happened.

Baghdad, Iran To Exchange POW's Before May

JN2004160492 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Apr 91 p 1

[Excerpt] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has announced that Iraqi and Iranian teams have agreed to resume an exchange of prisoners before 1 May 1992.

An announcement released by the ICRC office in Baghdad, a copy of which AL-THAWRAH obtained yesterday, also said that the Iraqi and Iranian delegations, which met in Geneva on 15 and 16 April, have reached an agreement under ICRC auspices.

The two sides examined the mechanics of the exchange as stipulated by the agreement which they signed in Geneva on 14 February according to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. [passage omitted]

[Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 19 April publishes an exclusive Baghdad-datelined front-page report citing an ICRC statement issued in Geneva as saying that Iraq and Iran have reached an agreement on a swap of POW's as soon as possible and indicating that the exchange is set to take place before 1 June]

Paper Warns Iran Against 'Playing With Fire'

JN2104074692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0644 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has cautioned the Iranian regime against carrying out its old and new policies of harassing and conspiring against Iraq.

In its editorial today the paper says: It appears that the Iranian regime was given the green light by its U.S. masters to carry out all its hostile plans against Iraq, whether through military operations, as was the case when Iranian aircraft recently attacked our territory, or through embracing all conspirators and gangs discarded by our masses.

The paper emphasizes: The Tehran rulers would once again be playing with fire if they imagine that Iraq, which has emerged from the epic of the Mother of Battles, will be weaker in confronting the hostile whims that are deeply rooted in their sick minds. The paper refers to the eight-year war which ended with their defeat and the shattering of their evil dreams of linking Iraq with their so-called Persian Empire.

Concluding its editorial, AL-'IRAQ emphasizes that all evil big powers and all small agents like the rulers of Iran will not undermine the determination, steadfastness, and the defense of right by the proud Iraqis, the grandchildren of those great leaders of Islamic and Arab history.

Envoy to Turkey Denies Baghdad-PKK Ties

JN2204072192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)—Iraq's ambassador to Turkey has asserted that there is no relationship whatsover between Iraq and the opposition Kurdish Workers Party [PKK].

In a statement published in today's issue of AL-JUMHURIYAH Rafi' Dahham said that Turkey's territorial integrity is important to Iraq, which is ready for cooperation and joint action in this respect.

He said that the control of irresponsible elements of a region in northern Iraq and the security vacuum caused by the presence of foreign forces in Turkish territory are reasons for the escalation of PKK activity.

He noted that this activity was very limited before the Gulf crisis and during the presence of Iraqi authority in the region.

Mr. Dahham said that the United States is fabricating excuses to continue the economic blockade against Iraq even though the Iraqi Government is providing all facilities to the UN inspectors.

Iraqi Free Council Condemns New Kuwaiti Border

NC2204091392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Press release by the Iraqi Free Council on the resolution passed on demarcating the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border; date and place not given]

[Text] On 18 April newspapers reported that the UN committee in charge of demarcating the borders between Iraq and Kuwait completed its fifth session at UN Headquarters in New York on 16 April. The committee issued a statement defining the basis for a vertical demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border areas which will be submitted to the Security Council in July for a final decision on the border's demarcation.

These newspapers also reported that British sources commented on the issue, saying that the UN committee has returned to Kuwait 10 oil wells that had been used by Iraq in addition to vital and important parts of the strategic port of Umm Qasr and its naval base. The same sources added that the results of the demarcation committee's work signify a new victory for Kuwait and that the new demarcation moves the Kuwaiti border 600 meters north of the previous border. This gives Kuwait five or six new oil wells from the al-Rumaylah field, in addition to five other wells.

The Iraqi Free Council regards this information and reports and information published by several Western newspapers some weeks ago on the issue to be a serious compromise of Iraqi territorial integrity. Should a final decision on the issue be approved such information and

reports will represent a time bomb that will harm the two neighboring and fraternal countries and peoples and undermine the ties of Arab and Islamic brotherhood between them.

The great majority of our Iraqi people, as well as the Iraqi Free Council and the majority of the Iraqi opposition forces and factions, have stood against the Saddam regime's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, first because it was a flagrant act of aggression against a fraternal people, and second because it was an infringement on Kuwaiti national sovereignty.

Therefore, and by the same token, we believe that any modification in the demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border will not constitute a punishment of Saddam and his regime. Rather, it will compromise Iraq's national sovereignty and the Iraqi people's rights in their homeland.

We believe that the acceptance by the parties concerned, especially the government of fraternal Kuwait, of the border demarcation committee's proposals or of the relevant reports and information will form a shortsighted policy that will not realize the present and future dimensions of compromising Iraq's territorial integrity on the pretext of punishing Saddam's regime for his aggression against Kuwait. The reason is that this regime will exploit the issue to the fullest extent when talking about sovereignty as a good argument used improperly to win strong sympathy and to get important and vital elements in the Army and society to rally around him unwillingly on the grounds that he is the champion of sovereignty. In addition, the infringement of Iraqi sovereignty will oppress the Iraqis on top of their oppression by the regime.

This will deepen the crack that the Saddam regime created between the two peoples and [word indistinct] in the future without acceptable or legitimate justification.

It must be noted and emphasized that the tyrant Saddam's regime bears the primary and basic responsibility for abandoning and gravely endangering Iraq's national sovereignty as a result of his humiliating submission and surrender to the resolutions and conditions compromising this sovereignty imposed on Iraq because of this regime's adventures and treacherous and hostile wars against the region's countries and people. These resolutions and conditions were also imposed because of the regime's control and domination of power in Iraq by bloody repression and terrorism against the entire Iraqi people's free and genuine will.

In view of the long-term prospects for relations and common interests between the two fraternal countries and peoples and the need to improve and consolidate them continuously and out of our eagerness to see that Saddam and his regime do not use any means that might widen the gap and (?dispute) between the two fraternal peoples and countries to help prolong his life and maintain his (?continuous) threat to Iraq and Kuwait and all the region's nations, we believe that a suitable solution to the demarcation of borders may be found by securing the borders that existed before 2 August 1990 or by postponing the decision on these borders until Saddam's regime has fallen so that the border issue may be resolved through brotherly negotiations and a mutual agreement between the Kuwaiti Government and a legitimate Iraqi government. Such negotiations should be supervised by Arab League and UN representatives on the condition that the borders are finally recognized and set after the Security Council's endorsement.

The relations between Iraq and Kuwait and their peoples are historic and sacred and more noble than a few oil wells or few square meters of land that neither of the two countries or people need. The new victory that Kuwait should win is not through this but rather by triumphing in rising above the wounds, pains, and memories of the present and near past resulting from Saddam's invasion with a clear vision of the future. Work must begin now so that this future will be safe and stable and based on love, tolerance, amity, and a genuine desire for coexistence between the two peoples and countries.

[Signed] Sa'd Salih Jabr, chairman of the Iraqi Free Council

Opposition Says Regime Helicopters Attack Nojol

NC2104180992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Two helicopters attacked peshmerga positions in the Nojol area at 1230 yesterday. Air defense systems confronted the helicopters, forcing them to leave the area. The dictatorial regime's forces bombarded the same region at 1500 the same day.

In another development, a government force attacked the village of [name indistinct] in the Qarah Hasan region of Karkuk Governorate, destroying several houses. While withdrawing to its positions the government force was attacked by peshmerga [words indistinct]. The force sustained human and material losses.

Opposition Reports Increased Army Defections

NC2104164792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] A group of soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the 1st Mechanized Division's 1st Brigade defected to the popular forces in (?al-Shattaniyah) yesterday to show the unity between the Iraqi Army and people and out of a desire not to support the pariah tyrant's regime and not to implement its malicious schemes.

According to Iraqi opposition sources the popular forces carried out a lightning operation against one of the 1st Brigade regiments tasked with catching men and noncommissioned officers who are defecting.

The attack resulted in the destruction of the company. All of the personnel were either killed or wounded. The body of company commander Lieutenant Bashshar was found on the battleground.

The number of Iraqi Army soldiers, noncommisioned officers, and officers defecting to the popular forces in the southern marshlands has increased in the past few weeks.

'Large Number' of al-Hillah Citizens Executed

NC2104181092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The Information Office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has reported that the dictatorial Baghdad authorities have executed a large number of citizens of al-Hillah Governorate. The office said that 21 members of the Hudhud family, including Major General Muhammad Hasan Hudhud and Staff Colonel Ja'far Hadi Hudhud, have been executed.

SAIRI added that the Baghdad authorities demolished their homes and confiscated all their property before killing them.

Paper Terms George Bush 'Willful Criminal'

JN2104071592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has described U.S. President George Bush as a willful criminal.

In an article published here today the paper wonders what the United States is planning and what actions are on its list following the embargoes on Iraq, Libya, and Cuba.

The paper says: No doubt the U.S. list is long and does not stop with the embargo. U.S. intentions have become very clear. The new world order that Bush is propagating can only be established through such sick hostilities.

The paper adds: The millions of Iraqis who are suffering from the embargo, as well as the Libyans and Cubans, are no more than new targets which the U.S. Administration seeks to destroy. Bush's new order primarily targets human beings. Perhaps what took place in terms of the destruction of human beings in the former Soviet Union in accordance with the U.S. plan proves this point. [passage omitted]

Telephone Links to U.S., Greece, Sweden Set

JN2004181692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—For the first time Iraq has initiated international telephone service with the United States, Sweden, and Greece. The service is characterized by its rapid transfer of calls, which have no time limit.

This was told to INA by the director of exchanges and telephone networks at the State Enterprise for Telecommunications and Post. He said that Iraq and the telecommunications departments in these countries have agreed to immediately transfer calls as soon as the callee agrees to pay the cost of the call.

He pointed out that current international telephone lines between Iraq and countries around the world total 207, including 48 lines with Jordan, 23 lines with Britain, 11 lines with Sweden and the Netherlands, 105 lines with the United States, and other lines with the rest of the world which run through the United States. He also said that contacts are under way with telecommunications departments in other countries to secure similar telephone services.

Interior Minister Receives Libyan Envoy

JN2104121792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1124 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan received here today Sa'id Ahmad Abu-Haliqah, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

During the meeting the minister emphasized that the colonialist plans and conspiracies that sisterly Libya is facing are another link in the conspiracy against the Arab nation and its noble sons.

He said that the second chapter of the brutal aggression on Iraq has now started against sisterly Libya. This chapter is part of a conspiracy aimed against the revolutionary spirit of the two peoples because they have a just cause. He emphasized that united action, fruitful efforts, and unified stands and opinions will confront all attempts and conspiracies to undermine these two Arab countries.

Sa'id Ahmad Abu-Haliqah hailed Iraq's courageous stands and praised its intrinsic capabilities in rebuilding what was destroyed by the forces of evil during their brutal 30-state aggression against great Iraq.

Syrian President's Regional Tour Viewed

JN2004183592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1623 GMT 20 Apr 92

["Analytical report" by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja and read by Rawhi Ahmad carried within "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] It now appears that the Zionist entity has reached a new peak in its arrogance. This has been aided by two main factors: absolute U.S. hegemony over the decision-making process in the United Nations, and the current deterioration in the official Arab state of affairs due to the participation of many Arab regimes in implementing the aggressive U.S.-Zionist will, whether through direct participation in the aggression against Iraq or through compliance with the U.S. Administration's resolution imposing an embargo on Libya.

The latest is a statement by [Israeli Housing Minister] Sharon today. He said that the Zionist entity will not

spare a single minute in building settlements and laying roads in the West Bank, the Golan, and Jerusalem. Sharon's remarks represent a culmination of a frantic campaign which he has launched to change the demographic status of the territories occupied in 1967, especially Jerusalem, Nabulus, Ramallah, Janin, and the Syrian Golan Heights.

It is not at all strange for the Zionists to speak arrogantly as the date for the new round of bilateral negotiations between the concerned parties and the Zionist entity draws near, even though the Arabs achieved nothing in the previous rounds of negotiations. Indeed, the Zionists obtained recognition of their usurpation of Palestine, and they realized what they have dreamed of for 40 years—namely, sitting face to face with the Arab regimes at the negotiating table.

Zionist stubbornness comes amid feverish talk in the United States and the Zionist entity about the need to strike at Arab terrorism, as they put it, in Libya and Syria as well. U.S. and Zionist official circles have talked about the involvement of the al-Asad regime in the Lockerbie incident.

Observers link hints that Syria will be the next target after Libya and Hafiz al-Asad's surprising tour of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. Al-Asad is visiting those rulers who placed their countries under direct U.S. military protection through agreements with France, Britain, and the United States.

Observers believe that Hafiz al-Asad hopes to realize two objectives simultaneously: obtaining part of the Arab oil money, which is being squandered to finance acts of aggression against the Arab nation, and getting the petrodollar shaykhs to intercede with the U.S. Administration in the hope that they can do something.

Hafiz al-Asad's conduct arouses the ridicule of observers because what is essentially targeted is not the al-Asad regime but the forces of the Syrian Arab army. For there exists the possibility of a Syrian surprise which would turn the equations and calculations of Washington and Tel Aviv upside down. This surprise, to be specific, would be the toppling of the al-Asad regime.

Minister Briefs Red Cross on Medical Shortage

JN2004161092 Baghdad INA in English 1535 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 20, INA—Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di met today the team of the International Red Cross in Iraq.

During the meeting the two sides discussed the reasons of the drop in medicines production and stop of production lines in Samarra' drugs factories as a result of the expiry of the raw materials and non-existence of spareparts and materials for packaging and the effect of that on the health of the people.

The minister appealed to the team of the International Red Cross to take its humanitarian role as a neutral humane side and to confirm the real facts of the deteriorated production situation of drugs industries in Iraq because of the blockade imposed on imports of raw materials and other materials auxiliary to the producing of drugs, which quite contrary to what the international organisations promote and some governments claim the observing of human rights and lifting sufferings of humanity. [sentence as received]

The Iraqi industry minister made it clear that the people of Iraq was not in need of humanitarian aids in the form of medical and food gifts and assistance as the afflicted poor countries need but needed a real assistance in lifting the embargo imposed on it to enable it to use its property for protecting the Iraqi man against ills and malnutrition.

The International Red Cross team had visited the drugs industries factories in Samarra' and medical syringes factory in al-Mawsil and got acquainted with impact of the blockade imposed on the country that rendered the proportion of production to decline to less than 20 per cent of the gross capacities of the establishment for drugs industries and medical equipment.

Human Rights Head Criticizes U.S. Actions

JN2104191692 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 20 Apr 92 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Riyad 'Aziz Hadi, "chairman of the Iraqi Human Rights Society and also a political science professor," by Malallah Faraj; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Faraj] When was the Iraqi Human Rights Society established? What are its main objectives?

[Hadi] The society was established in 1960 in accordance with the Societies Law No. 1 of 1960. The society has been managed and operated by a group of university professors, judges, lawyers, journalists, writers, and others who champion "human rights" and seek to defend this noble endeavor. [passage omitted] The society now has 200 members who make up an elite group of university professors, lawyers, judges, and journalists. Affiliation with our society is an act of free will.

Our society contributed to the drafting of an Arab human rights declaration. It also proposed to the Arab League the launching of an Arab court of justice. Furthermore, our society contributed to the launching of the Arab Human Rights Organization in Beirut in 1974. Our society is also engaged in various other activities. The society meets regularly and holds annual meetings to review its activities and discuss its work.

[Faraj] We view the Iraqi Human Rights Society as an operating yet obscure group. We hear about it between long intervals. It is also completely in the dark as far as media coverage is concerned. It has isolated itself. Why?

[Hadi] We believe in work without commotion. That is why the society's activities are not highlighted by the media. This does not mean, however, that the society has isolated itself. In fact, it is constantly active.

[Faraj] But the citizens whose rights you are vindicating have the right to know what your group is doing.

[Hadi] Citizens see us in action when they report to us and tell us about issues and cases that have something to do with the society's work. We are willing to espouse the cause of any citizen who seeks our assistance. Indeed, we have been performing this mission. [passage omitted]

[Faraj] How are the concerns of the Iraqi individual reflected in your daily work?

[Hadi] Our entire work is dedicated to serving the Iraqi individual. Specifically, one of the most important tasks of the society is to receive citizens who have complaints or grievances and to contact the concerned authorities to resolve them.

[Faraj] How responsive are the competent agencies to your efforts to resolve citizens' problems?

[Hadi] Some agencies respond favorably to our work, while the response of others is less favorable. Nevertheless, we continue our work to shoulder our humanitarian responsibilities. Our philosophy behind all this is to support and enhance the march of human rights.

[Faraj] The issue of human rights cannot be confined to efforts to address complaints or grievances reported by citizens. It must be much broader than this. You know this best of all. What have you done to address this issue?

[Hadi] We have done a great deal to address the issue of human rights in its minute details. For example, we met with a number of ministers and discussed aspects of our work and some of our remarks as well. We also visited jails and studied the circumstances under which prisoners live to ensure that the international agreements on human rights officially ratified by Iraq are enforced. Our visits were positively received by the prisoners who we met. Moreover, we discussed with the culture and information minister the society's role and the importance of having the media cooperate to cover its activities.

[Faraj] Are you accusing the media of failing to perform their duty?

[Hadi] This is not an accusation. It is just a question being posed. Many of our activities have not even been noted by the media. For example, on 3 December 1991 in fraternal Jordan we held a special seminar on the impact of the Atlantic aggression against Iraq. In this seminar we addressed in detail the crimes committed against our people by the allies. Arab media highlighted this seminar in detail, whereas Iraqi media failed to make any mention of it. Even the Amman correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY failed to attend this seminar although he was informed in advance of the venue and date of the seminar. The excuse that he gave to justify this conduct was bad weather conditions and heavy rain. [passage omitted]

[Faraj] Will you please shed some light on the proceedings and results of the meetings held by human rights organizations in Geneva this year?

[Hadi] The UN Human Rights Commission held its annual meeting in Geneva from 27 January to 6 March 1992. Fifty-three countries, including Iraq, took part in these meetings.

We, as a nongovernmental organization, played our humanitarian and legal role by enunciating the dangers entailed in maintaining the economic blockade imposed on our people. We also exposed the crimes committed by the U.S. Administration during its military aggression against Iraq. Similarly, we exposed its deliberate targeting of civilians. We met with various Arab and international organizations. We even met with the human rights organizations that were hostile to Iraq to explain aspects of our humanitarian endeavors. [passage omitted]

[Faraj] At a time when the U.S. Administration, using its hegemony, is seeking to propagate claims regarding human rights in Iraq, it has chosen to forget its crude human rights violations against our people and also against the American people as well. In one of its releases Amnesty International indicated that there was an increase in executions and inhuman treatment in U.S. prisons, particularly against women, who were treated inhumanly and disparagingly. The release in question added that women held in U.S. prisons were monitored day and night and searched while they were naked, not to mention numerous other violations.

[Hadi] Everybody is aware of this, yet the hegemony of U.S. brute force is preventing the majority from presenting the facts as they are. For example, the U.S. Congress, which professes to be a staunch advocate of human rights, has consistently opposed efforts to make the United States sign international agreements on human rights. The United States is violating 22 international agreements on human rights, including 12 agreements it signed but failed to ratify, and 10 others which it has neither signed nor ratified, including:

1. The international agreement on civil and political rights.
2. The international agreement on dismantling all forms of racial discrimination.
3. The international agreement on dismantling and punishing the crime of racial segregation.
4. The agreement on preventing and punishing crimes of genocide.
5. The international agreement banning the trade in human beings and the use of others for prostitution.
6. The agreement banning torture and similar means of harsh, inhuman, and humiliating treatment.

Thus, you can see that the U.S. policy vis-a-vis human rights in light of the facts explained above is a policy

based on promoting political interests rather than principles and true faith in human rights. The failure of the United States to ratify most of the international agreements reached on human rights shows how insincere this policy is and betrays the double standards which this policy employs.

[Faraj] What about the crimes that the U.S. Administration committed against our people through the aggression, the blockade, the crime of burying thousands of Iraqi troops alive, and attacks on civilians? Are not all these crude violations of all human rights agreements? What have you done about these crimes?

[Hadi] Human rights constitute an indivisible whole. They are equally important regardless of whether we are talking about the rights of a single individual or about the rights of a whole people. What the U.S. Administration has been doing against our people is a deliberate genocidal operation. As we have already mentioned, we played our role in exposing these crimes in a bid to elicit an international condemnation of these crimes. However, U.S. hegemony is forcing the world public to shirk its responsibilities on these crimes to avoid a clear condemnation. You are well aware of the current circumstances and international interests in this phase.

[Faraj] And last, what about the citizens' problems?

[Hadi] The society's doors are open to all citizens. The society is willing to listen to any person who has problems or attitudes concerning the human rights situation here and to help him find the appropriate solutions to these problems in cooperation with the competent agencies. [passage omitted]

Former Prime Minister Views Western 'Progress'

JN2104095392

[Editorial Report] Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 19 April publishes on page 6 an approximately 2,000-word article by former Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi.

Dr. Hammadi says his article is devoted to discussing the material progress achieved by the West, particularly the United States, at the expense of spiritual values and moral ideals. He notes that his aim is also to shed light on aspects of the moral degeneration in the West and how this came about.

Discussing this latter aspect, Hammadi says: "What is noticeable in American society is that the phenomenon of evil grows strong quickly and resistance to it also grows weak quickly, until this phenomenon is gradually absorbed and accepted." As evidence of this he cites several phenomena prevalent in the United States such as prostitution, homosexuality, drugs, gambling, crime, as well as other things, noting that "the quick acceptance of wrong practices, adapting to evil, and quickly learning to live with it in American society indeed attracts attention." He remarks that this is a moral weakness and indicates that strong evil tendencies have overpowered the tendencies to do good.

Hammadi then discusses the position of the U.S. public before and after the Gulf war. He notes the initial opposition to the war by the U.S. public, prompted by fear for U.S. soldiers and concerns about increased taxation. He underscores the role played by "guided media" in dispelling such fears and how the media later "portrayed to the public how the United States won a military victory through the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait."

Hammadi also discusses the blockade on Iraq, noting how the U.S. public, under the influence of the propaganda machine, maneuvering, and deception, has gradually learned to live with this "ugly crime."

The secret behind this quick U.S. acceptance of evil on the domestic and foreign levels, Hammadi contends, is that U.S. institutions promote and nurture evil tendencies in American society.

Concluding, former Prime Minister Hammadi says that the purpose of his article was to discuss the "big illusion" predominating in the world today that there is great advancement and progress in the West, noting that "what happened in the West and the United States is that the material capabilities, which are basically geared toward evil and not good purposes, have grown."

Food Price Drop Linked to Opening With Turkey

JN2004182192 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 18 Apr 92 p 2

[Exclusive]

[Excerpt] Prices of essential foodstuffs in our local markets have recently dropped. This is due to the rise in the purchasing power of the Iraqi dinar, an increase in commodity supplies, and the opening of roads with Turkey which boosted the flow of foodstuffs arriving in the country. [passage omitted]

Shamir: West Bank, Gaza 'Ours Forever and Ever'

TA2104195792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated this evening that the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are ours and will remain ours forever and ever. The prime minister was addressing a rally held in Jerusalem to salute the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. He added that since 1977 the Israeli Government has regarded liberated areas not simply as collateral [piqadon] for a time when negotiations are held, but as an inseparable part of this land.

Our correspondent Beni Liss reports that in the course of the ceremony medals were awarded to Generals Matan Vilna'i and Dani Yatom, respectively the commanders of the Southern and Central Commands.

Reacting to Shamir's remarks, Labor leader Yitzhaq Rabin and Knesset Member Mikha Harish say: The settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have joined the ranks of the victims of Shamir's commitments, which are not even worth the paper they are written on. Before trusting Shamir, the settlers had better ask Yitzhaq Moda'i, David Levi, and others with whom Shamir broke agreements.

More on Shamir's Remarks

TA2204051092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report by Mikha'el Tuchfeld]

[Text] Last night's rally at Jerusalem's Ramada Hotel was held under the slogan: With One Heart for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. On the eve of the peace talks' resumption in Washington [as heard], and on the eve of the elections, declarations such as the one we heard from the prime minister were made: The settlement drive in the territories is irreversible.

[Begin Shamir recording] From 1977, all Israeli Governments regarded the liberated parts of our homeland as more than collateral [piqadon] for a time when negotiations are held, as an integral part of the country to which the people of Israel have returned. The settlement in these areas has become one of the cornerstones of the government's policy—and not out of political considerations, not only out of security considerations, but for the simple reason that these parts are ours and will remain ours forever and ever. [applause] [end recording]

The inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza were pleased. Yisra'el Har'el, the chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, said that the autonomy proposed by Israel will set down the foundation for a Palestinian state, but Shamir was no longer in the auditorium to hear these remarks. In Shamir's view, there is no contradiction between his declarations and the resumption of the peace talks, and he told us as much in a later interview:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I have surprised no one. The people with whom we are negotiating and with whom we sat in Washington and will sit, God willing, in other places, are perfectly aware of our stands and views, and they are negotiating with us for peace nevertheless. True, we are not settling the areas in order to return them; we are settling in order to live.

[Tuchfeld] Is there any point in continuing the negotiations on the eve of the elections?

[Shamir] We will conduct negotiations. We are willing to conduct negotiations independently of the elections. We may not meet again after this coming encounter because there will not be enough time for that, but this does not matter. [end recording]

Some people boycotted the ceremony. One of them was [Tehiya] Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni, who believes Shamir is leading the way to autonomy.

Later the prime minister awarded the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Defender decoration to several personalities in acknowledgment for their activity for settlement. Among the decorated were Major Generals Matan Vilna'i and Dani Yatom, the commanders of the Southern and Central Commands respectively.

Shamir Discusses U.S. Ties, Elections

TA1704143192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Pesach supplement) in Hebrew 17 Apr 92 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Schiffer] Mr. Prime Minister, do you agree with Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, who described the state of relations between Israel and Egypt as a "cease-fire?"

[Shamir] I am not David 'Ivri's interpreter. I think we have relations of peace with Egypt, but this is not full peace. The Egyptians also say as much. Both sides must aspire to make this peace more comprehensive and complete.

[Schiffer] Do you intend to intercede with President Husni Mubarak to bring about the release of David Ovitz, who has been held in an Egyptian jail for several months?

[Shamir] If need be, I will personally intercede with Egypt's leaders to bring about Ovitz' release. I think an Israeli who has done nothing against Egypt and its laws and security has been wronged and is suffering for no reason at all. He must be released and sent back home.

[Schiffer] In the last few days the U.S. Administration has been trying hard to reconcile with Israel. What are your expectations of President Bush's administration?

[Shamir] I would like to see practical expressions of the new winds blowing toward Israel from the United States.

I do not play down the utterances and statements of leading U.S. Administration officials because these are important. [passage omitted]

[Schiffer] The Likud has been issuing conflicting messages vis-a-vis the United States. Minister Ehud Olmert says that President Bush and the U.S. Administration are hostile toward Israel and the Likud, while the prime minister and the foreign minister say our relations with the Americans are friendly. Who should we believe?

[Shamir] People understand exactly what we are saying. They realize that there are and there have always been disagreements with the U.S. Administration. At the same time, they also understand that we share a basic, deeply rooted, and steadfast friendship, thanks to which we manage to overcome occasional differences of opinion.

[Schiffer] Then you do not think President Bush has a hostile attitude toward Israel.

[Shamir] I will not say that someone who does not share my views becomes my enemy. Disagreements do not turn people into enemies.

[Schiffer] During the annual AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] conference in Washington a few days ago, leaders of this pro-Israeli lobby called on U.S. Jews to support the Democratic candidate for the U.S. Presidency. Do you think this was a dangerous move which might hurt Israel in the future?

[Shamir] That is their business. I do not decide their policy. This is a U.S. organization that is totally independent of the State of Israel. Period. Their positions on any U.S. affairs are their own business.

[Schiffer] Bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arabs will resume at the end of the month in Washington. Will the Israeli delegation propose to hold elections in the territories?

[Shamir] Our delegation will report to the talks equipped with thought-out arguments. The proposals will conform with the Camp David accords. I am not prepared to go into details on whether we will propose to hold elections in the territories or not.

[Schiffer] The working teams of the multilateral talks will convene soon after the bilateral talks begin. Will you comply with the U.S. request to include Palestinians from the diaspora in these working groups?

[Shamir] We persist in our opposition to the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora because this contravenes the understandings we reached with the Americans prior to the Madrid peace conference. [passage omitted]

[Schiffer] In your opinion, how will the disputes and divisions at the upper echelons of the Likud affect the party's chances in the upcoming Knesset elections?

[Shamir] The media makes a fuss about these disputes. We have some misunderstandings on secondary and marginal issues, but on the main points we remain totally united. We have no disagreements about matters of principle, contrary to the Labor camp which is made up of numerous factions. They have an extreme left, another group that is far removed from the left, and so on and so forth.

[Schiffer] When you gave David Levi a letter promising him that he would be the foreign minister in the next Likud-led government, if and when it is established, you said you saw the matter closed. However, that was not to be. The crisis in the Likud's top echelons only became more acute.

[Shamir] I am urging you, just as I have urged Likud members, to stop talking about such things. That means that I should be the first to set the example. I repeat, these are marginal issues that should not be given too much attention.

[Schiffer] Are you once again on speaking terms with Moshe Arens, the defense minister in your cabinet?

[Shamir] We have no problems whatsoever. The fact is we met and talked two days ago.

[Schiffer] You promised David Levi in a secret letter that he would also be the foreign minister in the future.

[Shamir] I will not go into that. These are internal organizational matters that are of no interest to the public and have no bearing on key issues.

[Schiffer] What will the next election campaign look like?

[Shamir] I hope it is conducted in a dignified atmosphere. I do not think that election propaganda should be brutal, venomous, or virulent. [passage omitted]

Shamir Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Issues

TA1704184792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 17 April—recorded in Hebrew]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] A year after the Gulf war the world is facing a new crisis in Libya. How big is the danger that Israel will be pushed into involvement in this war against its will?

[Shamir] I hope we will not be involved in it. The current situation is somewhat different from the situation which existed a year ago. I also hope the crisis will be over soon, and therefore I believe we will not get stuck.

[Ganor] Do the sanctions imposed on Libya not constitute an example for the threat which Israel too may be facing?

[Shamir] There is no connection, there is no connection. One cannot draw any comparison whatsoever between Libya and Israel, nor do I think we should frighten ourselves.

[Ganor] Is there a relaxation in Israeli-U.S. relations following weeks of tension and conflict?

[Shamir] I should note that there is some effort by the U.S. Administration to alleviate somewhat the tensions created recently. This is positive in itself. I would hope that this trend will continue and that the U.S. Administration will manifest a more positive and practical attitude.

[Ganor] What do you mean? What would you like to receive from the U.S. Administration?

[Shamir] We have numerous issues in common with the United States, and it is always possible to find the appropriate channels for the improvement of relations.

[Ganor] Are you referring for example to the loan guarantees for aliyah absorption?

[Shamir] We have not given up on the guarantees yet, either. I still hope we will receive them, not in the very near future apparently, but the day for this will come.

[Ganor] Do you find traces of U.S. influence on additional governments, in Europe, not to approve guarantees for Israel?

[Shamir] I hope this is not the case. Our friends in the United States deny this. There may be some doubts still, but I hope the matter will clear up, again, through our receipt of aid in due course.

[Ganor] The members of the Palestinian delegation admit they indeed met with 'Arafat in Cairo. Will this bring the peace talks to a halt?

[Shamir] Look, I do not know whether they admit to this or not. We are still looking into this; there are different reports and declarations on the matter. In any event, we shall continue the talks. It is a fact that we talk only with those elements and people we had agreed upon. Any attempt to introduce the PLO or any other terrorist elements into the talks has not succeeded so far, nor will it succeed in the future.

[Ganor] Will the round of talks slated to take place in two weeks be the last one?

[Shamir] I do not think so. We have not reached this. This round is another move on the road of direct negotiations without preconditions between Israel and the various Arab elements.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, will Israel participate in the multilateral talks if Palestinian representatives from the diaspora also do?

[Shamir] We do not accept this proposal of diaspora Palestinians. I do not know what this is. As is known, we vehemently oppose the so-called Palestinian right of return. We shall not accept this, nor elements in addition to those we are prepared to accept as partners to the talks, such as the regional Arab countries and the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Ganor] In this case, what will happen to these multilateral talks?

[Shamir] I hope that the talks will continue and that those elements with whom we agreed to talk will participate in them.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, despite the appeals made to the Egyptian authorities they continue to hold Israeli citizens, including David Ovitz, under custody. To what would you attribute this Egyptian hardened-heart attitude?

[Shamir] This is very regrettable and painful. I do not find any logical explanation which can justify this reality, and I very much hope the Egyptians will understand that their action is not at all justified and that they will free Ovitz.

[Ganor] Does this affect Israeli-Egyptian relations?

[Shamir] It does not benefit them.

[Ganor] Are Israeli countermeasures, such as banning visits or recommending that Israeli citizens not visit Egypt, under consideration?

[Shamir] We have not reached this stage yet. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses Elections, Peace Process

TA1704153692 Tel Aviv DAVAR (PESACH supplement) in Hebrew 17 Apr 92 p 17

[Interview with Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin by Daniyel Bloch and Amir Neumann on 15 April; place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [DAVAR] Looking at the government's foreign affairs, security, and economic policy after the collapse of the unity government, what would you have done differently?

[Rabin] The changes in policy figured mainly in two fields. One field was the national order of priorities: In the five years and six months of the unity government, 3,500 housing units were built with government funding in the territories, including in areas that were more or less acceptable to Labor according to the Alon plan. On the other hand, 19,000 housing units were budgeted between July 1990 and the end of 1991, mainly political settlements. Almost nothing was built in the Jordan Rift Valley. This is a most significant change in the national order of priorities, which has diverted billions of shekels of the taxpayers' money to settlements instead of dealing with the problems of unemployment, immigrant absorption, and care for the younger generation. Funds were

diverted for roads in the territories instead of improving the road system's infrastructure, which is a prerequisite for investments to build new factories.

The second aspect pertains to the peace process. The May 1989 peace initiative focused on beginning Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, with Egyptian participation, while negotiations with the other Arab countries were put off for a later date. The Likud decided to hold comprehensive negotiations without a clear order of priorities. Egypt was pushed to the sidelines and supplanted by Syria. I have no objection to holding negotiations with Syria but I believe we must be realistic. We have to see what is important and what is possible.

In my opinion, this is the correct order of priorities: reaching an agreement with the Palestinian delegation on autonomy, without dealing at all with the return of territories. The concept of autonomy as an interim agreement for a transitional period is a good and intelligent idea. It will enable us to examine the trends among the Palestinians before giving up one centimeter of the territories of Eretz Yisra'el, while we maintain security control.

We have virtually no disagreements with Jordan. Negotiations with Syria, which is the hardest nut to crack in light of its hostility toward Israel, will only become feasible when Syria will be left with limited room to maneuver.

[DAVAR] Is there any room for territorial negotiations with Syria?

[Rabin] I would like to talk with Syria but it is hard to see the point. The main problem is between Israel and the Palestinians—and therein lies the only way to widen the circle of peace beyond the peace agreement with Egypt. An agreement with the Palestinians would have far-reaching significance. For 13 years, ever since the peace agreement was signed with Egypt, nothing has moved in this respect.

[DAVAR] With regard to the peace with Egypt, would you subscribe to Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri's description of it as a mere cease-fire?

[Rabin] We have a peace agreement with Egypt. I am admittedly disappointed by the lack of satisfactory progress in normalizing ties between two countries that are at peace; however, I am also aware that the Egyptians have difficulties in promoting normalization before the peace process gathers momentum, especially in the Israeli-Palestinian sphere. Whether rightly or wrongly, that is their business.

[DAVAR] Could you tell us your position in principle on uprooting settlements within the boundaries of the autonomy?

[Rabin] Existing settlements will not be uprooted. At this point, we are talking about an autonomy based on the reality in the field. Our opposition to political settlements is unrelated to the autonomy. Nevertheless, we will preserve the situation insofar as the settlements—including the political ones—are concerned.

[DAVAR] Have there been any negative changes in our defense policy from the time you left the Defense Ministry? How do you perceive the threat posed to Israel by the nonconventional weapons owned by Syria, Iraq, and other Muslim countries?

[Rabin] Israel experienced a kind of miracle when President Bush took the stand he did, organized a fighting coalition, and dealt a severe blow to Iraq when the latter decided out of the blue one day to invade and annex Kuwait. Iraq's plans to develop nuclear weapons, which had been concealed from U.S. and Israeli intelligence, were thus exposed. According to experts, had the war not erupted Iraq would have completed its nuclear program in 1994, which would have posed a very serious threat to Israel's existence.

The elimination of this threat depends on the United States or, to be more precise, on President Bush. It can be eliminated only through the activity and inspection of the UN teams for the next one to three years. Only the U.S. President can compel Iraq to go on with the process. I believe President Bush will do that, and I hope that if he is not reelected, anybody who replaces him will emulate him. In my view, this is the test of the United States in the Middle East—whether it will manage to curb and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Iran and perhaps even Syria also pose a threat, but it was Iraq that led the process in the Arab world.

[DAVAR] Will you agree to a mutual nuclear disarmament so as to turn the Middle East into a nuclear-free zone?

[Rabin] Israeli governments have on more than one occasion declared our willingness to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction, based on a mutual agreement between Israel and each of the countries of the region. This position remains in effect, although Iran would have to be included today in any such agreement.

Curbing the arms race sounds like a very nice goal, but it usually is the offshoot of peace treaties and political agreements. One must realize that the arms race will continue as long as hostility pervades the region.

[DAVAR] Are you worried about the threat posed by Syria's fast-paced acquisition of Scud missiles?

[Rabin] I think the main danger to Israel's existence has declined with the end of the cold war and the elimination of the Soviet umbrella for the leaders of the hostile Arab countries. The blow dealt to Iraq also played a role. The threat to Israel's existence has decreased, but I do not know for how long. It has not disappeared altogether. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses Regional Peace Prospects

AU2104152792 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 20 Apr 92 pp 173-182

[Interview with Yitzhaq Rabin, candidate of the Labor Party for the parliamentary elections on 23 June, by Romain Leick and Stefan Simons in Tel Aviv; date not given: "I Have Seen Too Much War"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Rabin, with you as Prime Minister Shamir's challenger, the prospects of beating the ruling Likud Bloc are better than they have ever been since the Labor Party lost power in 1977. If you become prime minister in June, will peace then be within reach?

[Rabin] I believe and I hope that I will be a good candidate. I will make every effort to bring about a change. If I become the next prime minister, I will strive for a two changes, above all: First, in peace and security policy. For Israel it holds true that one cannot distinguish between security and peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is it not worth incurring a risk for peace?

[Rabin] A peace that does not create security is useless. Second, I would shift the priorities in our country. Instead of investing money in housing projects, which I consider to be political settlements, the available money should be used to combat the urgent economic and social problems, above all unemployment. It is a cancer that has attacked our society.

[DER SPIEGEL] Because of your military past, many Israelis see you as the only politician of the left who can negotiate a peace with the Arabs without putting Israel's security at risk. What might such a peace look like?

[Rabin] The best prospects for that consist in the dialogue between us and the Palestinians....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...including the PLO?

[Rabin] When I speak of the Palestinians I mean the representatives of the Palestinians from the territories. I stick to the basis of the invitations that were issued for the Madrid peace conference: All parties accepted the fact that the first step was to consist in establishing autonomy or self-administration, so that the Palestinians can take their matters into their own hands.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, this is not enough for the Palestinians.

[Rabin] This would be a temporary agreement for a transition period of five years. After three years, at the latest, negotiations about a definite solution would have to start. There is no way of coming to a definite peace settlement in one single step from the current state of affairs.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will the Palestinians agree to this first step without knowing what will come out at the end for them?

[Rabin] After all, the Palestinians would get something that the other Arab states, under whose occupation they lived in the past—Jordan in the West Bank, Egypt in Gaza—never dared to offer them.

[DER SPIEGEL] In contrast to the ruling Likud party, your party has adopted the formula "land for peace." What does this mean specifically? What form of territorial compromise is acceptable for you?

[Rabin] My basic position has not changed since the end of the Six Day War in 1967: I want an Israel that can live in peace and security, which, nevertheless, also remains a Jewish, democratic state at the same time. In my view, this definition means that at least 80 percent of the Israeli citizens should be Jews.

[DER SPIEGEL] This means that there is no room for the Palestinians from the occupied territories in this Israel.

[Rabin] I believe in the Jewish people's right to the entire land of Israel. But the actual problem is the 1.7 million Palestinians in the territories, who are a community that is completely different from us—in religious, cultural, and political terms. Therefore, even though I recognize the Jews' claim to all of Israel, I do not want to annex 1.7 million Palestinians against their will; because this would make Israel a binational state.

[DER SPIEGEL] This means you would be willing to give up at least parts of the Biblical land of Judea and Samaria, which you yourself conquered in 1967?

[Rabin] I am willing to do this. But I cannot simply rely on a peace treaty or an international agreement. Treaties in the Middle East are not as inviolable as the Ten Commandments, the Bible, or the Koran. I do consider peace treaties as an essential instrument to gradually abolishing the readiness for war, but this is a long process. Therefore, apart from treaties, we also need borders that we can defend.

[DER SPIEGEL] The missile attacks during the Gulf war showed that Israel has become vulnerable even to remote aggressors. Are there any secure borders at all?

[Rabin] The Iraqi Scud missiles were fired at our population centers for the purpose of drawing us into the conflict. However, when we plan our defense policy, we must not just think of a missile attack. A war is waged with all kinds of weapons systems. Ask whomever you choose: Strategic depth is important for defense.

[DER SPIEGEL] How much are the territorial concessions that you want to make worth if you still insist on a military presence at the Jordan River?

[Rabin] I distinguish between Jewish settlements, which are established by the current government for political reasons, and positions that serve Israel's defense. These include strategic settlements in the Jordan Valley and on the Golan Heights.

[DER SPIEGEL] And the indispensable strategic positions also include the annexed eastern part of Jerusalem?

[Rabin] Jerusalem is another questions, it does not come under the heading of security. It is the heart and soul of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Jerusalem must remain united forever under Israeli sovereignty as our capital—with free access and free exercise of belief for the other religions.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you at least willing to stop the construction of new settlements?

[Rabin] I have been against political settlements for more than 20 years. During my term of office as prime minister I tried as much as I could to prevent these settlements.

[DER SPIEGEL] How much of the occupied territories do you want to keep?

[Rabin] We have never agreed to retreat to the 1967 borders. Our policy is clear: territorial concessions, yes; retreat to the 1967 borders, never. What should the definite solution look like? Discussing this now does not lead anywhere.

[DER SPIEGEL] The settlement policy of the Likud Government also had the purpose of making it impossible to give up the occupied territories. What will happen to the Jewish settlers, whom you do not consider strategically important, after Israel's withdrawal?

[Rabin] During the stage of autonomy, the Palestinians should be able to administer all their own affairs themselves—with the exception of foreign policy, security, and responsibility for the Israeli settlements.

[DER SPIEGEL] This means that these settlements remain Israeli enclaves within an autonomous Palestinian area?

[Rabin] This is not my terminology. I have only explained the basic outlines for the transition period.

[DER SPIEGEL] After the peace with Egypt all Israeli settlements in the Sinai were dissolved. Is it conceivable that something like that will also happen in the West Bank?

[Rabin] The Camp David accord was a historical breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Menachem Begin, the late Israeli prime minister, paid a difficult and painful price for it. However, I think that it is not absolutely necessary to uproot settlements, not even with a view toward a final peace settlement.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Israeli settlers will hardly want to live under Palestinian sovereignty.

[Rabin] About 120,000 Palestinians lived in the area that we put together as the united Jerusalem under our sovereignty in 1967 at the time. We offered them Israeli citizenship—they refused. They have the right to participate in local elections as citizens of Jerusalem, but they cannot participate in the elections to the Knesset. I do not want to say that a comparable solution should apply to the Jewish settlers. However, perhaps a situation will arise in which the final border will clearly separate Jews from Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] All this does not sound exactly like a generous draft for peace. Why should the Palestinians trust you more than Prime Minister Shamir? After all, they have not forgotten that you, as defense minister at the beginning of the intifadah, swore to defeat the uprising with "violence, determination, and beating."

[Rabin] My attitude today is the same as at that time: Israel must not retreat one millimeter because of violence—no matter whether armed forces of Arab states or Palestinian terrorist groups or the intifadah are involved. We must oppose violence with all our strength, within our legally defined limits.

[DER SPIEGEL] This does not bring Israel one step closer to peace.

[Rabin] At the same time I have always made it clear that we cannot solve the problem with military power alone. I have repeatedly told the Palestinian leaders—and I have met many of them: Do not think that you can force us to give in with stabbings, Molotov cocktails, or stones. If you want a solution, negotiate with us, we are ready.

[DER SPIEGEL] For the Palestinians such negotiations on autonomy are only acceptable if they see them as a first step on the path toward their own state.

[Rabin] This is what they want, but we are against it. I do not demand that they expressly renounce this position—as long as their demand does not disturb the negotiations on autonomy.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you not have to consider the prospects of a developing Palestinian state nevertheless?

[Rabin] No. The answer is no.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is there, in your opinion, a Palestinian people who has a claim to a national right to self-determination? Golda Meir used to completely deny the existence of a Palestinian people.

[Rabin] Does every people have its own state? There are more than 100 peoples on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Should each people, which defines itself as such, have its own state?

[DER SPIEGEL] Does Israel not indulge in self-deception, if it believes that it will be able to deny the Palestinians the national right to self-determination in the long run?

[Rabin] Those who insist on this issue will only create difficulties, which will prevent us from achieving what is now possible.

[DER SPIEGEL] This does not change the fact that the Palestinians do not want to give up this remote goal.

[Rabin] Listen, I do not prohibit the Palestinians from thinking of their remote goal. But now they should deal with the upcoming questions of autonomy.

[DER SPIEGEL] So far Israel has refused to accept the PLO as a political partner in the peace process. Has this attitude not long ago become meaningless? Compared with the Islamic fundamentalists of Hamas or other political extremists in the occupied territories, the PLO in the meantime has practically become rational and moderate.

[Rabin] Our interlocutors for negotiations about autonomy are the Palestinians from the territories.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israel's Governments have always believed that time is working in their favor. However, the longer peace is blocked, the greater the Palestinians' frustration becomes and thus the danger of murderous attacks or armed kamikaze actions.

[Rabin] It is difficult to judge the future on the basis of events from the past. So far time has worked in our favor. This does not mean that we should not make every effort to establish peace, which offers us security—security for the state of Israel and security for our citizens.

[DER SPIEGEL] The elections in June are not only of decisive importance for Israel. They are being observed with attention abroad—above all, in the United States—because the continuation of the peace talks depends on the result. If Washington had its way, you would probably be the next prime minister. How would you repair the relationship with the United States, which has been damaged by the quarrel about the settlement policy and the loan guarantees?

[Rabin] I have always considered relations between Israel and the United States as a vital issue; after all, I myself once was ambassador to Washington. Over the past seven years alone we received about $21 billion, above all to improve our defense capability and our military strength. However, Israel must not become a country that lives under U.S. dictate. We are independent, free, and democratic; decisions about our own vital interests must be made in Israel.

[DER SPIEGEL] U.S. pressure is painful. Will you have to listen to Washington more closely?

[Rabin] There is no doubt that on our own we would have great difficulty in coping with these problems and with the increasing unemployment. Unemployment is already having a negative effect on the influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Of course, we can take in more Jews, if we get help from the United States and Europe.

[DER SPIEGEL] Never before in Israel's history has one of the big parties been able to achieve an absolute majority on its own. So far every government has had to cooperate with the religious parties, because they were the decisive weight. Are you not afraid of again being helplessly subjected to their attempts at blackmail?

[Rabin] There are only two alternatives: either an alliance with the left and the religious parties or forming a government of National Unity with the Likud. This would clearly be the worse solution.

[DER SPIEGEL] For the first time the new citizens from the former Soviet Union are playing an important role. How do you plan to gain their votes for yourself?

[Rabin] The people from Russia who are voting for the first time are mainly interested in having basic needs satisfied: jobs, housing, and education. But they are also interested in peace and security. Despite all the tempting offers by the Likud government, very few of them have settled in the territories. This gives me hope that the majority of them will vote for us.

[DER SPIEGEL] Even if you were to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations with the Palestinians, would this really be enough to reconcile Israel with its Arab neighbors? Or will it be Israel's fate forever to be a constantly threatened state, surrounded by enemies who consider it a foreign, Zionist thing and do not recognize its legitimacy?

[Rabin] The peace process will be painful and will last a long time. Unfortunately, there are no short cuts and no Open Sesame's.

[DER SPIEGEL] You started your career as an officer in the 1948 war. You became world famous as the victor in the 1967 Six Day War. Now, 25 years later, you want to crown your political career with a historical peace agreement. Has the hawk Yitzhaq Rabin really turned into a dove?

[Rabin] I do not use zoological terms when the people of Israel are the issue. I want peace, because I have seen too much war. I know what war means; I know the suffering, the victims, the agony, and the mourning—on both sides.

On the other hand, we live in a very unstable, unpredictable region, where there are no democratic systems or traditions, but which is ruled by totalitarian or authoritarian regimes. Therefore, military strength is the only insurance for peace. And therefore we must negotiate about peace from a position of strength.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, the Middle East will not be a place for disarmament even after the end of the Cold War?

[Rabin] I wish it would be such a place. However, realistically seen, disarmament—apart, perhaps, from a limitation of weapons of mass destruction—will not be achievable for the time being. As long as there are hostile camps, the arms race will continue.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yasir 'Arafat once said that he is desperately waiting for the appearance of an Israeli De

Gaulle. In 1962 De Gaulle withdrew the French armed forces from Algeria and released the country into independence. Could you be the De Gaulle of the Middle East?

[Rabin] I have no intention of doing what 'Arafat expects of an Israeli leader.

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Rabin, thank you for this interview.

Ben-Aharon on Peace Talks, German Loan Guarantees

TA2204061592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office and chief delegate to talks with the Syrian delegation, by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Will the coming round of talks start at the same point from which the previous rounds were launched?

[Ben-Aharon] No, definitely not. I believe we became much better acquainted with the parties' stands in the course of the previous five rounds. We have no doubt that each of the delegations receives support from and is guided by the most senior echelons in Syria, Jordan, and—as is well known with regard to the Palestinians—the PLO. The more one is familiar with the stands of the party with which one conducts negotiations, the better one is equipped to deal with problems and snags. I myself, at least, have learned a lot about Syria's stand, which we had previously known only from the Damascus radio and television.

[Zohar] The question is whether we can make progress and overcome obstacles at a time when Israel is preoccupied with an election campaign, which naturally precludes flexibility.

[Ben-Aharon] It does not. You may be surprised, but I think it does not. We should remember that our stands on issues on which we and our immediate neighbors disagree represent, to the best of my knowledge, views held by a majority of the Israeli public and political parties. The issue discussed with the Palestinians is autonomy, on which everyone, with the exception of a few small parties, agrees. As for the Golan Heights, we strive at a peace arrangement and a peace treaty with Syria without an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Zohar] Can we already discuss elections in the territories—that is, autonomy—in this round?

[Ben-Aharon] Definitely. This issue may be discussed in this round, or in the next. As you know, the issue of elections in the territories featured in the Israeli Government's initiative of May 1989, but the question is what kind of elections and when they are to be held.

[Dan] We would like to ask you about the loan guarantees which Germany will probably refuse Israel. I presume you are aware of this.

[Ben-Aharon] We have received all kinds of reports to the effect that the United States had counseled—with or without quotation marks—Bonn against granting us the guarantees until the United States itself decides it can do so. The Americans have denied the reports, but various sources, whose reliability we are unable to verify, insisted that this is how it happened. If there is truth to the report, it is to be deplored, because it would mean the United States was pressuring us both directly and indirectly. However, we cannot be certain that this is how things happened. At the same time, we heard from Bonn that the German Government had its own objective reasons—Germany's financial difficulties and the need to extend massive aid to both the recently incorporated East Germany and the CIS—for refusing us the guarantees.

[Zohar] Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, good morning to you.

Foreign Ministry: Europe Relations 'Real Crisis'

TA2104193192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] EC leaders have recently taken action to prevent the establishment of free trade zones between Israel and a large group of European countries. Senior Foreign Ministry officials describe relations with the West European countries as a real crisis, but staffers in the Prime Minister's Office say that is an exaggeration and, all in all, relations are normal. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports from our Tel Aviv studio:

Differences of opinion between Israel and the EC have increased in recent years, particularly over political issues. The current disagreement, however, involves a direct confrontation with regard to the upcoming session of the regional committee on arms control and disarmament in the Middle East, which is part of the multilateral negotiations for peace in the region.

Israel objects to Europe's presence on this sensitive committee, while leaders of the EC emphatically demand to take part in it. Against that background Israeli ambassadors in Europe are talking about an increasing coldness and the onset of a freeze on joint activities, to the point that the EC recently took action to prevent the signing of a free trade zone agreement between Israel and the EFTA [European Free Trade Area] countries, which are not yet full members of the EC.

[Begin recording in English of Gwyn Morgan, EC ambassador in Israel] Israel's security and security in the Middle East is European security. We are not so far away that we are going to escape any conflagration that occurs in this part of the world. All I can say is that there should be no underestimating the determination of the European Community to take its place in this forum, as of right. It's not a request; we're not begging. We believe we

have a right to be there, and that right was accorded at the beginning of the peace process. It would be very, very foolish to underestimate the degree of commitment of the 12 member states of the European Community and the European Community as a whole to participate in these important talks. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry officials are worried about this deterioration in relations and are prepared to work out a compromise. The crisis with the U.S. Administration is more than enough for Israel, and it can very well forgo the ebb in relations with Europe, they say. The Defense Ministry, however, is not prepared to give the Europeans a foothold in the deliberations on arms control, mainly because of the traditional pro-Arab stances of the Europeans and the fact that they have been wholesale arms suppliers of the Arab countries. In the Prime Minister's Office, too, a senior source told us that Israel should not give in to growing European pressure. According to that source, the officials dealing with the subject on both sides are overstating the gravity of the issue, whereas high-ranking officials do not consider the matter that important. As we saw, the EC's ambassador in Israel thinks otherwise.

Reportage on Clashes in Southern Lebanon

SLA, IDF Shell Kafr Rumman

TA2104143692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier sustained moderate wounds when he was hit by terrorist gunfire in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz has the initial details:

IDF troops were on a routine patrol near the Beaufort Castle when they came under mortar fire. One soldier sustained moderate wounds. He was treated on the site, and later taken by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

At noon, light weapons fire was directed at a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in the eastern sector of the security zone, but nobody was hurt in that incident. Several buildings in Kafr Rumman adjacent to the security zone were hit by fire directed at it by the SLA and the IDF. Explosions could be heard from inside them, and it may very well be that terrorists stored weapons and ammunition in those buildings. [passage omitted]

Two 'Hizballah Terrorists' Killed

TA2204072692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Two Hizballah terrorists were killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in south Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht cites Lebanese police as stating that the two were killed in two houses in Kafr Rumman, which the IDF shelled yesterday in retaliation for terrorist gunfire at its patrol. The two houses were evidently Hizballah's ammunition storehouses. The Lebanese police said members of the organization had been seen removing two bodies from the houses, and more casualties are believed to be trapped under the debris.

Lebanon Frees 3 'Would-Be' PLO 'Attackers'

TA2104174092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Lebanon will not bring to trial three gunmen from PLO- 'Arafat who were captured six months ago on the beach in south Lebanon while allegedly on their way to attack civilians in Nahariyya. The three would-be attackers were caught by UN soldiers, and Israel demanded they be handed over to Israel. The UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] command refused and promised that the three would face trial in Lebanon.

Lebanon's Voice of the South radio has reported that the decision was made to release the three after talks between Syrian officers, Lebanese representatives, and Fatah officials. Security sources in Israel have called the release an incident of the utmost gravity.

Shamir Maintains Innocence of Freed Syrian Jews

TA2104112692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the two Jews who were released from a Syrian prison this week were innocent of any wrongdoing. He added that many Jews were jailed by Syria in the past and that these two brothers are the last of those detained to be released. The prime minister was speaking to our correspondent Nisim Qeynan during a tour of southern Israel. Shamir met with new immigrants in Ofaqim and assured them that all unemployment problems will be resolved within two years.

As for the official opening of the Likud's election campaign, Yitzhaq Shamir said that the campaign will start within a few days or a week at the most.

Syrian Attempt To Violate Air Embargo Analyzed

JN2104194292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1335 GMT 21 Apr 92

["Analysis and Comment" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his aides in the regime may be given many descriptions but they cannot be depicted as naive, reckless, or hasty. They do not take any step before studying its dimensions and possible repercussions.

Hence, it is possible to assume that officials in Damascus knew very well that the countries concerned would not allow any Syrian passenger plane heading for Libya to pass through their airspace in compliance with the

international air embargo imposed by the UN Security Council on Libya based on the Lockerbie terrorist operation.

If the Syrian officials expected this, then one wonders why did they declare to the world, Saturday, that Syrian Arab Airlines intended to resume its regular flights to Libya as of yesterday. Was this merely theatrics?

It is generally, if not completely, impossible that the motive was just a Syrian move to free itself from blame on Libya's part and to appear as having tried its best but did not succeed. It is most likely that the Syrian maneuver yesterday was based on one or both of the following two motives:

The first is that the Syrian regime is afraid that its turn will come after Libya. To be more exact, the Syrian regime is afraid that the UN sanctions now imposed on Libya will be used against Syria later on, especially since the Syrian regime is still on Washington's list of terrorist countries.

The second possible motive is that the Syrian regime could be under threats from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi because both regimes, the Syrian and Libyan, are partners in international terrorism and in sponsoring and financing international terrorist organizations. This means that both regimes are aware of each others secrets in this connection. Now that the Libyan regime is exposed, the Syrian regime would be subject to blackmail or threat by the Libyan regime.

The question is: What did Syria gain from its maneuver; that is, it is going back on its intention to resume its civil flights to Libya?

Syria yesterday received a frank warning from the U.S. Administration that it has to respect the international sanctions imposed on Libya according to UN Security Council Resolution 748. However, what is more serious is whether Syria, through the above- mentioned maneuver, has exposed itself by merely trying to violate the Security Council resolution regardless of its true motives. This means that its solidarity with Libya also makes it involved in and contributing to international terrorism.

Latvia Opens Consulate in Tel Aviv

TA2104075792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Latvia opened its consulate in Tel Aviv today. This first representation of a Baltic state in Israel will contain only an economic and trade department for the time being. It will not issue entry visas to Latvia.

ADP Elects Knesset Candidates

TA1904124492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 92 p A3

[Report by Gabi Zohar]

[Excerpt] The Arab Democratic Party [ADP] yesterday elected Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah to the first slot on its Knesset list. Darawshah was elected by a majority in a direct and secret ballot. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Mu'asi, head of the al-Furaydis local council, raised some eyebrows when, contrary to a previous decision, he ran for Darawshah's position "to uphold the party's democratic values."

Attorney Talib al-Sani from Lagiya in the Negev won the second place, which was contested by eight candidates, with 43 percent of the vote. Hanna Ibrahim, a poet from the village of Bi'na, a Christian and a RAKAH [New Communist List] activist until two years ago, won the third place. [passage omitted]

First Water Pipe From Israel to Gaza Opened

TA2104200592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Israeli soldiers today shot dead an inhabitant of 'Illar in the Tulkarm District. The victim, 24-year-old 'Anan Majada, was armed with a gun and, according to military sources, refused to obey soldiers' orders to halt.

Clashes with the security forces also occurred in Bayt Rima, Zababidah, and the Balatah refugee camp.

The first water pipe from Israel to Gaza was inaugurated today in the refugee camps in the central part of the Gaza Strip. The pipe was laid down by the Meqorot water company. [passage omitted]

IDF Intelligence Chief on Military Threats

TA1704183792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Pesach supplement) in Hebrew 17 Apr 92 pp 1, 2, 28

[Interview with Major General Uri Sagi, chief of the Israel Defense Forces, IDF, Intelligence Branch, by Ron Ben-Yishay; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sagi] In light of the developments in the region since the Gulf War, I estimate that the immediate conventional military threat facing the State of Israel has decreased. The main reasons for this are the military defeat of Iraq, the UN efforts to disarm it, the collapse of the Soviet Union as a meaningful strategic element in the region, and the United States' standing as the only prominent superpower.

[Ben-Yishay] Is Iraq no longer a threat to Israel?

[Sagi] In the short run, Iraq's military, economic, and political condition does not allow it to become the axis around which an eastern-front coalition against us could be formed. Also, it cannot join such a coalition, if Syria initiated one. Jordan's ability to threaten us has diminished as well. Because of its dire economic situation, it cannot allocate resources for any significant level of armament and reinforcement. That is why its Army did not improve or grow over the past two years. If we add to this the fact that Jordan is taking part in the political process of its own

volition, we reach the conclusion that Jordan will not rush to join a military coalition against us.

[Ben-Yishay] Is there any truth to the rumors that Iraq hid Scud missiles in Jordan so that UN inspectors could not find them?

[Sagi] There are rumors and bits of information which, even if correct, cannot involve a large number of missiles and launchers. I would not want to say more in public. Jordan and Iraq are cooperating today as well but more on political and economic issues than militarily, and it is done on a far lower scale than during the Gulf war.

Therefore, it can be stated that the "eastern front" is extinct for all intents and purposes. This situation, however, is not guaranteed to last forever. We will have to monitor and to make sure that, if changes take place which call for our reevaluation, we know about them.

[Ben-Yishay] How long do you believe this relatively comfortable situation will last?

[Sagi] These are processes which are hard to measure in terms of time. I have to be very careful in my evaluations, but when I speak of a low-level, short-term threat, I speak about months or perhaps the next year or two.

[Ben-Yishay] Does this mean that currently there is no real military threat to Israel's existence?

[Sagi] No. Syria has been and remains a true threat to Israel's defense. They continue arming themselves and building up power, which is troubling.

They have made significant improvements in the quality of their conventional weapons. They have been buying first-rate advanced tanks, such as 600 upgraded T-72 tanks. In the past, the Syrian artillery was either stationary or towed; today they have self- propelled guns purchased from Bulgaria—which is a sign of a modern army with offensive intentions. Their order of battle has expanded throughout. I can tell you that since the Gulf war they have added to the standing army another division which was previously part of their reserve forces, and they are still going strong.

[Ben-Yishay] There were reports about a Syrian-Russian arms deal. Where does it stand now?

[Sagi] This deal has not yet materialized. In it, the Syrians are trying to purchase operative and strategic weapons: extremely advanced planes such as MiG-29's, Sukhoy 24's, and SA-10 surface-to- air missiles which are equivalent to the U.S. Patriot missiles. They believe they need them to equate their power with Israel's.

For the same reason they are making efforts to equip themselves with strategic weapons. Syria has chemical weapons, which is not new. Now, however, it is equipping itself with precise and long-range surface-to-surface missiles. The Scud-C missiles they are currently purchasing from North Korea give them the ability to use strategic weapons with nonconventional warheads.

[Ben-Yishay] How many Scud-C missiles and launchers to they already have?

[Sagi] I cannot give details; several dozen, but the deal with North Korea has just started. What is more serious from our point of view is the fact that this deal includes the construction of an assembly line for those missiles in Syria. If the assembly line become operational, they might have hundreds of such missiles, which is very worrying.

The Scud-C has a 500-km range; it can hit any target in the State of Israel. They can hurt all major Israeli strategic targets, even if the launchers are not placed on the Golan Heights, but deep and better protected in their territory.

The Syrian concept is that they need strategic weapons to use in one of two possible eventualities: one, if they attack and try to deliver a painful strategic blow to Israel; two, as a response to the strategic weapons they believe Israel has.

[Ben-Yishay] Does this mean that they are still seeking strategic parity with Israel in terms of both conventional and nonconventional weapons?

[Sagi] They want to deter Israel or at least have the ability to respond to Israel's strategic weapons. The Arabs believe Israel has such weapons. There is another aspect of the recent Syrian strategic buildup: The tightening of their grip of Lebanon.

According to the al-Ta'if agreement, Syria may concentrate most of its military force in the Lebanese al-Biqa', to face what Syria views as Israel's ability to outflank and threaten it if war breaks out between the two countries. It goes without saying that Syria has an absolute control over political and economic life and military deployment throughout Lebanon.

Furthermore, Syria is in control of all terror activity in Lebanon. Should it so desire, it helps the Lebanese Government disarm the Palestinian organizations or, alternatively, it allows the Hizballah activity in the security zone and south Lebanon.

Despite their significant strengthening in the three fields I mentioned above, it is important to note that the Syrians have recently reached the conclusion that they have increasingly growing difficulties to attain strategic parity with Israel. They believe—and I stress, believe—that, as a result of the recent war, they have been moved farther from the ability to attain strategic parity with Israel, rather than nearer to it. That is why they joined the political process.

[Ben-Yishay] How do you explain that?

[Sagi] I believe, and also know for a fact, that al-Asad understands that Syria is still not strong enough militarily to retake the Golan Heights by force. Jordan and Iraq—the two other components of the eastern front—would have to join forces with Syria before al-Asad could

launch a viable offensive against Israel. He also needs the strategic and political support of a superpower. Those are the prerequisites for strategic parity according to the Syrian concept, and Syria does not have them.

Iraq and Jordan have weakened to an extent that prevents them from participating in any military coalition against Israel. The Soviet Union no longer exists, and the United States will not back any action by al-Asad against Israel—certainly not in the near future. He has therefore voluntarily chosen to join the political process. That decision was not a capitulation to U.S. pressure, but rather a recognition of the fact that joining the political process was the best way to further his strategic interests.

True, there are no signs that al-Asad is more ready to make any concessions on the Golan Heights. I clearly recognize, however, a real Syrian desire to pursue the peace process for all it is worth. If and when Syria comes to the conclusion that the political process does not serve its interests, it will change its mind and adopt a different policy. Syria is continuing to purchase arms and to build up its military power precisely for such an eventuality. It remains unclear if and when such an eventuality will occur. In the meantime, the guns are silent and an atmosphere for negotiations prevails.

[Ben-Yishay] Does Iran not fill the vacuum left on the eastern front by Iraq's weakening?

[Sagi] Iran has the potential of becoming the regional superpower, or minisuperpower, to replace Iraq in the Persian Gulf. Iran will realize that potential if left undisturbed. The Iranians are now obsessed with achieving what they call a "decisive strategic capability." To that end, for example, they are making a very serious effort to strengthen their conventional army. They are buying everything from anyone willing to sell—and modern tanks and artillery are being sold in Eastern Europe today for bargain prices.

[Ben-Yishay] Who is selling them tanks?

[Sagi] Poland. Iran bought a few T-72's, and a lot of older T-55's and T-62's. The Iranians are looking for more T-72's, and they will get them. The T-72 is a modern tank. Although it cannot compete with the Merkava Mk.3, the U.S. "Abrams" tank, or the German "Leopard 2, it is still a good, modern tank.

[Ben-Yishay] Would you happen to know how much a T-72 costs?

[Sagi] You can buy a basic model T-72 for $500,000 on the wild markets of Eastern Europe. By comparison, a sophisticated tank made in the West costs over $3 million. What is really worrisome, however, is that the Iranians are mainly trying to purchase modern arms technologies that will enable them to produce the weapons themselves.

[Ben-Yishay] Including nuclear weapons?

[Sagi] Yes. Iran has declared that it wants nuclear weapons. It continues to develop nuclear reactors, both for research and for military purposes. Regrettably, there are still those that supply Iran with nuclear technology, including European, and even Western European industrial firms.

That is not the policy of the countries in which those companies operate, but no one stops them from supplying components and technological expertise to the Iranians. Add China and North Korea to those European companies, and you get a worrisome picture. I believe the Iranians may achieve military nuclear capability by the end of the decade. They are also buying missile technology from China and North Korea that will enable them to produce missiles. That technology includes the means to develop long-range surface-to- surface missiles.

[Ben-Yishay] Is Iran's involvement in international terror also part of its effort to become a regional power and spread the Islamic revolution?

[Sagi] Apparently so. Iran, as a state, deals in terrorism and is involved in terrorist attacks all around the world. It is a known fact that Iranian intelligence, as an institutionalized body, implements state-sponsored terrorism. At the moment, however, the Iranians have limited their terrorist activity to certain areas, because they are trying to renew their economic and political ties with some Western countries—though not yet with the United States. In the long run, Iranian terrorism poses a problem to others besides the State of Israel.

The terrorist organizations that are sent out, financed, and supported by Iran are a widely diversified group. They have large operational capabilities. The connection between Iran and the Lebanese terrorist organizations that serve Tehran's purposes is a known fact. I can give you a long list of terrorist organizations that are controlled and financed by Iran. One example is the Islamic Jihad, which assumed responsibility for the embassy bombing in Argentina.

[Ben-Yishay] Which Islamic Jihad are you talking about?

[Sagi] That is a good question. The Islamic Jihad has six factions. Six different organizations use the same name, and all are supported by Iran. Most—but not all—are Palestinian. The organization that carried out the attack in Argentina is Lebanese. The Islamic Jihad cell that ambushed the officers' convoy a week ago in the security zone was Palestinian. The leader of that group, Shuqayqi, is a Palestinian who resides in Syria. His fighters are also Palestinian, but the weapons, training, and money come from Iran. He informed the Iranians of the operation, and they were the first to congratulate him on its success. Another Palestinian faction of the Islamic Jihad is headed by Ahmad (Ma'ana). It is also sponsored by Iran. The Iranians themselves, of course, deny any complicity in those attacks, so as not to sabotage the rapprochement with the West.

[Ben-Yishay] Could a Syrian-Iranian alliance replace the Syrian-Iraqi alliance and create a new eastern front against Israel?

[Sagi] Syria and Iran cooperate in a great many fields. This cooperation will increase in future, perhaps even to include strategic matters. It may even eventually include nonconventional weapons.

[Ben-Yishay] Is Iran helping Syria obtain nuclear weapons?

[Sagi] Not at this stage. When Iran achieves its own nuclear capability, however, I would not rule out cooperation with Syria. That possibility is reason for concern, but it is still far from realization. One must also remember that Israel does not head Iran's list of priorities. Iran's own strategic security problems take precedence over its fight against Israel.

[Ben-Yishay] For example?

[Sagi] One example is control over energy sources in the Gulf. Another is its past and ongoing border disputes with Iraq. Another is the Iranian opposition based in Iraqi territory, which could trickle back into Iran. If we look at Iran's strategic position, it appears that within 10 years it will become a key player in the region and a threat to Middle East peace. That process is almost irreversible unless someone intervenes to stop it.

That does not mean Iran is becoming a direct threat to Israel's existence. The distance between our countries is still very great. Dispatching a conventional force against the State of Israel would be a very difficult and complex logistical operation. The Iranians do not have the capability to carry that out right now. They do not have missiles or nuclear weapons for the time being either. Besides, the United States or other countries may decide to intervene and stop their military buildup. It could also transpire—and this is a historical paradox—that Iraq will grow stronger, and thus counterbalance Iran's acquisition of power.

[Ben-Yishay] Is another war between Iraq and Iran a realistic possibility?

[Sagi] I do not believe such a war will break out soon. The conditions are not yet ripe for either side. The root of the conflict between Iraq and Iran is still there, however, and it could bring about a war or a dispute between the two countries in the future. I would not rule out the possibility of Iraq rehabilitating itself and its army as well.

[Ben-Yishay] Can Israel keep an eye on what is happening in distant countries like Iran and Iraq.

[Sagi] Yes, but only in conjunction with other intelligence agencies. I believe that Western intelligence agencies in general, and not just Israel, have now recognized that when dealing with the kind of threats posed by Iran and Iraq, it is best to cooperate and work together to find out what is happening in those countries.

[Ben-Yishay] When you say Western intelligence agencies, are you referring to the Americans?

[Sagi] I am including the Americans.

[Ben-Yishay] Have our intelligence relations with the United States not been affected by the deterioration in relations between our governments?

[Sagi] Our intelligence relations with the Americans have not been affected. Things have even slightly improved in certain fields. In the future those links may even be expanded. This is a healthy two-way relationship based on give and take. We have things to offer them, and they can also supply us with stuff we need. There is, of course, certain information that we share with nobody, including the Americans. The same is true for them. On the whole, however, it is a close, open relationship that functions smoothly.

[Ben-Yishay] Has the worsening or deterioration of relations between Israel and the United States harmed Israel's strategic and security interests? Has our deterrent capability been affected?

[Sagi] I think the Arab countries assess the relationship between Israel and the United States as still being close and strong. To the best of my judgment, and to the best of my knowledge, Israel's total strategic deterrence has not diminished in the wake of the last war, nor by what is described as a crisis in relations between Israel and the United States.

[Ben-Yishay] Terrorist activity against Israel from Lebanon has greatly increased recently. Does the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have the intelligence capability to know what is happening inside the Hizballah and to fight it?

[Sagi] The power factors in Lebanon have changed. All the Palestinian organizations were disarmed about nine to 10 months ago. The PLO went along with this because it knew that any failure to cooperate would lead to a complete loss of its bases in Lebanon. They were disarmed in the Lebanese fashion—or, in other words, ineffectively. As a result of that, however, and as a result of our activity against them, the level of Palestinian activity in Lebanon has dropped off a great deal.

On the other hand, Hizballah has been on the rise. Amal, which was also disarmed, stopped fighting Hizballah men, and they moved closer to the border of the security zone. Sometimes we appear to be helpless against Hizballah as far as intelligence goes. One must remember, however, that it takes time and patience to penetrate such an organization. Unlike the Palestinian terrorists, who are easy to identify among the Lebanese, the Hizballah men are part of the rural Shiite population. It is difficult to infiltrate its ranks and hard to identify Hizballah men in the field. They merge with the regular population.

Therefore, some time will be required before we can establish the intelligence infrastructure that will enable us to collect information to help us fight them more

effectively. Al-Musawi's liquidation showed us that at certain times out intelligence gives us access to specific targets.

[Ben-Yishay] Since you have already mentioned it, do you think that striking at the leaders is the right way to battle Islamic fundamentalism?

[Sagi] I would like to remind you that we took similar steps in the past whenever necessary. We sought out the leaders and commanders abroad and struck at them. Al-Musawi was no exception in that regard. That action was part of a pattern of action we are taking against Hizballah, just as we acted in the past against Palestinian terrorism.

In the past, the IDF operated against terrorist headquarters in Beirut. The current chief of staff also participated in that operation. I was sent in the past, both as a soldier and as an officer, to strike at terrorist leaders. The IDF has always employed a wide spectrum of means to combat terrorists, their organizations, and their leaders. There is simply no way to finish the job at one go.

We have been waging a lengthy and protracted struggle with a difficult customer. The Hizballah makes good use of its equipment, and its fighters know how to maintain secrecy and observe field security. Their operations are quite daring, and they receive a lot of Iranian support.

I do not want to hand out grades, but Hizballah's terrorist activity is handled professionally. That organization must be taken care of, and we will do so with a variety of means—whichever we see fit—including strikes at their leaders.

[Ben-Yishay] In previous years, during the 1950's and the 1970's, terrorism occasionally dragged the State of Israel into all- out wars with neighboring countries. Do you think that Lebanese Islamic terrorism could pull us into a full-scale war, or at least into a massive thrust into Lebanon?

[Sagi] I hope not. The assassination of al-Musawi, and the subsequent clashes inside and outside the security zone, showed us that all the power bases in Lebanon, except for the Hizballah, were interested in preventing a deterioration. This includes the Lebanese Government, the Syrians, and the Iranians. I assume that even the Iranians were not interested in a continuing escalation, because as they see things, the very attack on targets inside the State of Israel may spur Jerusalem to take painful steps that will incorporate not only firepower but also territorial moves.

All parties wanted to prevent the IDF from moving in beyond the security zone. Even Hizballah understood that any exacerbation in the situation could bring IDF troops into certain areas, which would loosen Hizballah's control over the strip of southern Lebanon that verges on the security zone. Today it is pretty clear to them that artillery fire and katyusha rocket attacks on Israeli territory are totally unacceptable and could lead to very serious reactions.

[Ben-Yishay] What about Palestinian terrorism in the territories? Who poses a greater threat to Israel, the organizations affiliated with the PLO or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Sagi] As far as the quality of terrorist attacks goes, I think that the leading organization in the territories today is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. From the professional point of view, if I had to give grades, it would get a higher "mark." The spread of Islamic fundamentalism, however, poses a very great danger, and that is true in the territories just as it is in the Middle East in general.

The unity of the Arab world, the concept of Pan-Arabism, has suffered a great blow over the past 18 months. Arabs fought against Arabs. There are even cracks in the facade of the only thing that unites them—the war against Israel. However, there is an new underlying common denominator: Islamic fundamentalism. This common denominator is primarily a threat to the Arab regimes—to Israel as well, but mainly to Arab governments.

Paradoxically, Israel and the Arab regimes now share a common interest in stemming the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. The Arabs are really investing a lot of resources in this.

[Ben-Yishay] Is there any truth to the rumors, or reports, that nuclear and missile scientists from the former Soviet Union have gone to Iraq and Iran to help develop weapons of mass destruction?

[Sagi] That is a very important issue. The joint assessment of Israeli and other intelligence sources is that that constitutes a potential threat of the highest degree. The danger exists. I know that the authorities in Russia and in the three other republics that have nuclear weapons are very aware of the risk. We cannot control the movements of every scientist in the world, and I do not believe that any intelligence body has the ability to do so.

I know that a lot of international attention is being focused on the matter, and we are also doing our share in monitoring the phenomenon. There has been no clear evidence that significant numbers of Eastern European nuclear scientists are placing themselves at the disposal of extremist elements in the Middle East. But the danger is there.

One must, nevertheless, bear in mind that scientists are not enough. You need an infrastructure, money, and a lot of other elements before you can start developing a nuclear bomb or a missile.

[Ben-Yishay] Iran, Iraq, and Algeria do not lack for funds.

[Sagi] I agree. That is why we continuously warn of the danger. Friendly intelligence services are also aware of it, and there has been widespread cooperation among all Western intelligence services. We will have to continue monitoring it vigilantly.

[Ben-Yishay] Is there any chance of success for the U.S. efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?

[Sagi] I am not optimistic regarding that. On the contrary, the genie of nonconventional weapons, or nonconventional capability, is already out of the bottle. It will be very hard to put it back inside. [passage omitted]

Minister on Libya Blockade, Confederation

JN2204085692 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic
21 Apr 92 p 6

[Interview with Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif by Kamal Rashid and Samih al-Ma'ayitah in Amman; date note given]

[Excerpts] [AL-RIBAT] What is Jordan's position on the blockade against fraternal Libya?

[Al-Sharif] We are pained by the imposition of the blockade on fraternal Libya. We had hoped matters would not have reached this point. As a UN member state, and between our international commitments and our sympathy with the Libyan people and fraternal Libya, we feel very embarrassed, especially since we call for implementing international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. When you reject a resolution, then you cannot choose the UN resolutions you like and reject the ones you do not like. This is because we reject double standards. Based on this, we are very distressed by the Libyan brothers' suffering. Despite the imposition of the blockade, we hope that matters will not exacerbate further, and that a solution, which is in harmony with Libya's sovereignty and which respects international legitimacy, will be reached.

[AL-RIBAT] What about efforts to improve the Jordanian-Gulf relations?

[Al-Sharif] Regrettably, relations with the Gulf states and with the states with which we disagreed during the Gulf war have not yet improved. This is part of the general Arab tragedy we are experiencing. This makes us link this general situation with what Libya, or other than Libya, is being exposed to. Had the Arab situation been different from what it is now, confrontations with the Arab states would not have taken place in this form. We are sorry to say that relations are still lukewarm. Jordan, led by his majesty the king, is making every sincere effort in this regard. At any rate, we do not apologize for a position we have adopted. Time will prove that it was a sound and wise position. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIBAT] Specifically, are there any practical attempts within this framework?

[Al-Sharif] Some good mediators are seeking to improve the relations. They convey messages in this regard. These efforts have not yet reached the point of restoring cohesion, however, between Jordan and the countries with which we disagreed during the Gulf war.

[AL-RIBAT] Are relations with all the Gulf states on the same level or do they differ from one state to another?

[Al-Sharif] They are almost all the same. Regrettably, we do not have a dialogue with Kuwait in light of the measures it is taking against our sons there. There is a dialogue with others, however. As I said, relations in general are lukewarm and have not moved to direct dialogue to improve ties. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIBAT] Mr. minister, this is an innocent question about our press and theirs. I receive Gulf newspapers that write poison about Jordan and Palestine, and that dissociate themselves from the Arab nation. This is the responsibility of the writer, or perhaps the newspaper. But here, there is a ceiling for Jordanian papers' criticism of Gulf positions and policies. Will this remain to be our policy as the onslaught against us continues?

[Al-Sharif] There is a difference between rejecting policies and slandering people. We reject the latter. The ceiling is not imposed by the Ministry of Information, but by your religion, creed, and tradition. We denounce slandering campaigns that serve no purpose. This country has always adhered to good manners, decent language, and polite dialogue with others. This is the method that will prevail in the end, we believe. The countries of the Arab nation had enough curses and slanders against each other in the 50's and the 60's. This brought no good to anyone. Our media, we believe, should be a model of polite and civilized conversation. We should not curse if others do, and we should not trade slander with others. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIBAT] Supporters of the current settlement process give different justifications. Could this process bring positive results concerning the restoration of Arab rights?

[Al-Sharif] It is not true that anyone of those engaging in the negotiations has guaranteed results. The whole process proceeds from the fact that the world—not only the United States, but also Europe, Japan, and all world countries—is convinced that the longstanding Arab-Israeli crisis must be resolved. Many world problems, in Cambodia, Angola, Namibia, have been solved, and the Arab-Israeli problem cannot remain without a solution. There is an inclination in the world, led by the United States—and the Soviet Union in the past—to solve this problem one way or the other, especially since the military solution is virtually impossible in the foreseeable future. Neither the Arabs are able to remove 3 million Jews, nor the Jews are able to remove 2.5 million Palestinians. A military solution, therefore, is almost ruled out. In light of the changes in the world and the world's eagerness to solve the problem, those who argue for the process are telling us to try. But it is untrue that anyone has the solution in the bag. This is a trial of peace. Those who talk about a solution believe that the world climate is appropriate for entering the peace process, especially since there is declared U.S. support for and commitment to a solution based on exchanging land for peace and on implementing international resolutions. Since there is a declared commitment to this, then let us try. But if they tell you they have certain solutions, this is untrue.

[AL-RIBAT] The issue of confederation has been raised at this stage on the media and political scenes, perhaps not without motive.

[Al-Sharif] It was raised by our Palestinian brothers. We do not comment on this. It was the Palestinians who did all the discussion. For its part, Jordan agrees to the principle of establishing some union between the two banks of the river Jordan. It acknowledges that relations between the two peoples, in all walks of life, are organic. Therefore, there must exist some bond between the two banks. But the implementation needs, first, the liberation of the land, and, second, the approval of the two peoples in the two countries. We welcome this proposal, for we constitute one people. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIBAT] But it is noted, Mr. Minister, that Jordan did propose a confederation in the past.

[Al-Sharif] The circumstances were completely different. Now it is the other way around: It is the Palestinian side that is now making the proposal. We do not reject it, but we say that the timing needs discussion. Politics deals with changing situations, and the reality imposes itself. Prophet Muhammad himself, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, used to deal with reality. One cannot live on his own romantic dreams; reality imposes itself. We might have said something 10 years ago, and are now saying something else, or changing what we said in some way. Things change, and each situation is handled on its own merits. With the ongoing negotiations, the talk about confederation or federation is open to people to express their views about. But the implementation and the timing need discussion. How can we establish unity between an independent, free state and a state under occupation? Liberation of the land comes first. We should pursue every means to liberate the land. We say, and will continue to say, that the liberation of the land is more important than all other considerations. All considerations are delayed, and what matters is the liberation of the land from occupation. We say this to our Palestinian brothers and to ourselves, and we say it everywhere. If we make the liberation of the land our slogan, then all things may move in this direction. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIBAT] Not a single day passes without Western media publishing an article about the relationship between the Islamists in Jordan and the state, as part of their instigation and sedition among the parties. How do you view the relationship between the state and the Islamists in Jordan?

[Al-Sharif] The Islamic movement in Jordan is a national movement with a national role. It acts rationally and objectively. Its relationship with the state is governed by the interests of the homeland and citizens. Attempts at instigation and sedition can have no effect. The relationship is governed by awareness and wisdom; it cannot be affected by such attempts. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns 'Siege' on Libya

JN2204094092 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Apr 92 p 18

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued a statement expressing solidarity with the Libyan people in confronting the siege imposed on it. The statement says:

The U.S. Crusader-Zionist aggression on the Arab and Islamic nation is still looming, stemming from a historic and blazing hatred, and directed by a big arrogant power which employs the so-called international legitimacy to impose its will and justify its objectives.

The aggression's objective is to destroy the nation's will and wipe out all its revival plans regardless of the slogans or pretexts used for the aggression.

After the barbaric aggression on Iraq and its people and the attempts to starve, terrorize, and force it to bow, it is now Libya's turn, and for the same objectives. This will not end with Libya but will include other targets that are specified on the map of the aggressive Crusader-Zionist interests.

Following the Gulf crisis, the nation has been in a state of astonishment and the regimes have been in a state of disintegration, with different loyalties and positions. The aggression is targeting these regimes one after another in a long series that the international arrogant circles planned for a long time ago. The fierce onslaught against Iraq was but a link in the chain that will not stop before the aggression realizes its criminal objectives or before the nation confronts and breaks it through a resistant and heroic effort and a historic and honorable confrontation that is derived from its heavenly faith.

The successive links in the aggression against the nation at the current level, and the nation's weak response in confronting this fierce onslaught, emphasize how great was the crime committed against it during the reigns of hegemony, oppression, and totalitarianism in all walks of life. The nation will continue to be threatened and unable to confront the forces of oppression and evil as long as its will is inactive and its freedom is usurped, and as long as it remains away from shouldering its responsibilities, preserving its dignity, and defending itself.

The Muslim Brotherhood strongly denounces the Crusader-Zionist aggression on Libya and on any Arab or Islamic land, or any violation of human rights, dignity, and sovereignty. We call on the nation, its governments, and all its popular forces to mobilize their capabilities in order to confront the international conspiracy against the Arab and Islamic nation led by the United States, Israel, and their allies. We call for the following:

1. To work for unifying the nation under the banner of Islam, and to unify the ranks in face of the new world order.

2. To combat all causes of division and disintegration and entrench national unity.

3. To secure public liberties, man's dignity and his effective role in all walks of life.

4. To consolidate the shura policy and popular participation in government.

5. To preserve the nation's wealth, keep it away from extravagance, distribute it fairly, and invest it well.

6. To stand alongside the Arab Muslim people in Libya and Iraq and to support them in confronting the unjust siege.

Editorial Views Arab Stance on Libya, Iraq

JN2004113192 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Apr 92 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Has the Anti-Syria Campaign Begun?"]

[Text] Before the siege against the Libyan people is fully implemented and the Libyans are shackled by another series of UN Security Council resolutions like the ones imposed on Iraq and the Iraqis, some Western and Israeli circles have started to prepare the atmosphere to clamp a siege against another Arab people; namely, the Syrian people, under the same pretext of involvement in terrorism.

We were not surprised by such a campaign, which started early and began to surface intermittently before it took the form yesterday of an organized campaign against Syria. Since the start of the Western mobilization against Iraq, we have realized that the Arab nation is targeted and that the aim is to crush its spirit, sometimes in the name of combating terrorism and sometimes in the name of international legitimacy.

Hence, with the emergence of a new Western-Israeli campaign against Syria similar in pretexts and objectives to the campaigns against Iraq and Libya, it is no secret to any citizen throughout the Arab world that the West and its protege, Israel, are aiming to impose a siege on this nation, humiliate and subjugate it, and plunder all its resources.

Therefore, if what happened to Iraq was not enough to awaken this nation's conscience, and if all that happened to Libya did not deserve enough Arab consideration, what is being planned against Syria now urgently requires a comprehensive Arab stance that transcends all disputes and differences and rises above all wounds so the Arabs would not be attacked one country after another, and one people after another.

If most Arab countries had not joined the unfair Western campaign against Iraq and if all of them had not submitted to the unfair resolution against Libya, we would not have seen such a Western-Israeli alliance against the Arabs and no one would have dared to declare his premeditated intentions against Syria in a way that corroborates Arab doubts that it is all planned to eventually serve the interest of Israel, which is exercising terrorism in broad daylight and violating all the laws and principles of international legitimacy.

As we declare our solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people, which equals our solidarity with the besieged Iraqi people, we condemn this new campaign against Syria and consider it a prelude to a campaign that could be of a wider scale against the last Arab country which Israel considers as a threat. This behooves us to urgently request a quick rectification of the official Arab stance toward Iraq and Libya. Perhaps this might form the beginning of an appropriate Arab and pan-Arab response to the Western-Israeli campaign, which aims at subjugating this nation and totally crushing its spirit.

Iraqi Ba'th Official Meets Popular Organizations

JN2104174292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Amman, 21 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the party's Foreign Relations Bureau, has hailed Jordan—king, government, people, parties, and unions—for its honorable pan-Arab stand during the Mother of Battles.

During a meeting here today with representatives of Jordanian forces, parties, and popular organizations, as well as Jordanian personalities and members of the Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting Iraq, 'Abd-al-Ghafur said the continued struggle by these forces for lifting the blockade imposed on steadfast Iraq reflects an honest pan-Arab affiliation that will be remembered by future generations.

He reviewed Iraq's current reconstruction campaign. He asserted the Iraqi people's determination under leader Saddam Husayn to rebuild all that was destroyed by the aggressors during the 30-state aggression. [passage omitted]

During the meeting the conferees reviewed the continued U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist plot against the Arab nation. They stressed the role of the masses and their effective forces in confronting this plot through cooperation and interaction with lofty Iraq, the blessed Palestinian intifadah, and fateful pan-Arab issues.

The Jordanian forces, parties, unions, and personalities stressed pride in Iraq's heroic posture under leader Saddam Husayn. They explained that the Mother of Battles has produced an inclination for jihad and Arab unity, something which confirms the Arab nation's ability to rise and to revive its civilization.

'Steady Trickle' of Refugees From Iraq Continues

JN2104065392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 92 p 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The world may have forgotten the days when Jordan witnessed the flow of almost one million third country nationals fleeing the Gulf war theatre after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. But several international agencies remain very much engrossed in what might be varyingly called mopping up operations or a continuing process of helping third country nationals get home while remaining on alert against any possible emergencies in the volatile region.

Prominent among these organisations is the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which reports a continuing steady trickle of third country nationals from Iraq through Jordan, 20 months after the Iraqi move into Kuwait and 13 months after the war that ended the Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

"We are handling between 100 and 150 third country nationals coming in from Iraq on their way home every week," said Antonio Sakiris, head of the IOM mission in Amman.

The rate has been more or less steady since the beginning of the year, and IOM arranged passage home for about 1,100 people through Jordan, he said.

Most of the "evacuees" are Sudanese who opt to leave Iraq as living conditions get tougher in a country beset by skyrocketing prices resulting from international sanctions.

"There are of course a few cases of Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans as well as Pakistanis that we handle, but these are very limited," Mr. Sakiris said.

According to U.N. experts and aid agency officials, the bulk of the expatriate community left Iraq during the run-up to the Gulf war in January 1991 and immediately after the 44-day war.

"However, some chose to remain in Iraq apparently for personal reasons; perhaps because they have very little to look forward to back home," commented a senior aid agency official.

"But as the situation in Iraq is getting worse, they appear to favour leaving, particularly that the employment situation is not getting any better and prospects for any immediate lifting of the sanctions remain remote," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The official noted that an initial start-up of Iraqi industries after makeshift repairs of damages sustained during the war was short-lived, "either because they ran out of raw materials or were unable to secure spare parts to continue operations."

In turn, such disruption has led to massive lay-offs, squashing the hopes of many expatriate industrial workers who had stayed on awaiting an eventual improvement of the situation.

With cost of living shooting up, many now face no choice but to leave the country, experts pointed out.

Estimates of Sudanese remaining in Iraq range between "less than 100,000 to over 150,000," Mr. Sakiris said. "No one is able to provide an accurate figure."

Smaller number of Arab expatriate workers are also being expelled from Kuwait across the border to Iraq. They end up with international agency offices in Baghdad which in turn send them home through Jordan.

The two million-strong Egyptian community—the largest expatriate group in Iraq—shrunk to less than half shortly after the war, but there is no significant flow of Egyptians through Jordan at the moment, presumably because most of those still in Iraq have set up permanent homes there after marrying Iraqi nationals.

At the height of the Gulf crisis, towards the end of 1990, evacuees faced weeks of waiting to get passage home through Jordan. Now it has been reduced in most cases to an overnight stay in the kingdom before they board planes home, Mr. Sakiris, Greek national, told the JORDAN TIMES.

IOM has opened a main office in Baghdad and several smaller units in various parts of Iraq not only to help third country nationals but also to assist Iraqis displaced in the war and post-war internal unrest to return home, Mr. Sakiris said.

In addition to evacuees coming in from Iraq, the IOM office in Amman also arranges passage for political refugees who have secured asylum in third countries through other organisations such as the United Nations High Commisioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Red Cross.

Unofficial estimates say about 400 asylum-hopefuls remain in Jordan, including Iraqis who have joined the ranks of Somalis, Iranians and others.

The IOM is an inter-governmental agency based in Geneva. Contributions from governments make up its budget and it works closely with all United Nations and international relief agencies.

Asked how the IOM viewed possibilities of "emergencies" and a "return" of the evacuees crisis in view of the on-again-off-again tension resulting from the running conflict between Iraq and the United Nations Security Council over Gulf war ceasefire terms, Mr. Sakiris said:

"We hope that the situation in the region remains stable without prompting any emergency situations. But, if such situations do arise, then I am sure that all international organisations would be ready to step in."

Peace Talks Delegate Remarks on Multilaterals

JN2004113892 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, rapporteur of the water working group—a subcommittee of the Moscow conference on peace in the Middle East—said peace in the

region is in the interest of all parties involved in the problem, and is beneficial for the world at large. He said this dictates on all concerned parties to shoulder the burden of the longed-for peace in the region.

Mr. Haddadin told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that the multilateral talks are in harmony with Jordan's vision that aimed at holding an international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli dispute since Jordan took part in issuing Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967. He said the wide participation of countries in the Moscow conference represents the world's contribution in the peace effort in the Middle East.

Al-Sharif on U.S. Ties, Israeli Attitudes

JN2104062292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 92 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—On the eve of the resumption of the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks next week, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif Monday expressed dismay at the Israeli government's behaviour in the negotiating process.

"I must say we are dismayed at the behaviour of the Israeli government in the negotiations," Mr. al-Sharif told a group of American students and staff from the Jerusalem Centre for Near East Studies of Brigham Young University.

"We hope that they (the Israelis) can realise that they cannot force their existence in the Middle East by the power of arms alone," he said.

"They must realise that if they want to live in the Middle East, they have to be part of the Middle East... and recognise that Palestinians have a right and that right must be addressed."

Mr. al-Sharif also said that Jordan is subjected to a smear campaign in the European and American press for the position it adopted during the Gulf crisis.

"We know that unfortunately Arab oil money is playing a major role in the smearing campaign against Jordan in both Europe and the United States," Mr. al-Sharif said. He added that the campaign was "fogging the vision of some congressmen in their position towards Jordan."

Answering his audience's questions on the possible outcome of the peace negotiations and the type of political linkage that would be formed between the two banks of the river Jordan, Mr. al-Sharif said that if the peace process succeeds and Israel withdraws from the occupied territories, there are many scenarios, and they include a federation, a confederation and even a unity, as it existed before 1967.

But, he said, "any serious talk about a confederation or a federation has to make deliberation of the West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem."

He dismissed as "no cause of concern" the possibility that Palestinians would constitute a majority in the East Bank in the eventuality of the liberation of the occupied territories and the possibility of a confederation between the East and West Banks.

"Once the West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem are liberated, there is the other probability that Palestinians who have been sweltering in refugee camps for the past 40 years or more...might go home," he said.

An incentive to go back, according to Mr. al-Sharif, will be conditions of employment created with the financial aid of Japan, Europe, the United States and other rich countries.

Asked about the nature of relations Jordan maintains with the United States, Mr. al-sharif said that traditionally Jordan has been on very good terms with successive American administrations. The only hitch occurred during the Gulf crisis.

"But after His Majesty King Husayn's last visit to Washington and his meeting with President Bush, relations have improved considerably," he said.

The group of 194 students and staff from the Brigham Young University are here on a week's visit to Jordan and will then go to Egypt.

"We will be touring Jordan, mainly its Biblical sites, in order to get to know the country better," Truman Madsen, Director of the Jerusalem Centre for Near Eastern Studies, told the JORDAN TIMES.

PFLP's Habash Praises King's Generosity

JN1904090392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Apr 92 p 32

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Dr. George Habash, leader and cofounder of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and of the Arab Nationalist Movement, has praised His Majesty King Husayn's kindness and generosity.

In his first interview since he was detained in France last January, Dr. Habash told AL-RA'Y: I thank His Majesty King Husayn for ordering that all my needs are provided.

He added: I also thank his majesty for his great concern with my health.

Dr. Habash also thanked the united Jordanian-Palestinian people, saying: I thank all the Jordanians and Palestinians who were concerned about me in Paris, and also worried about my health when I arrived in Amman on 11 April.

Dr. Habash received me in a grey suit and with a bright smile, giving the impression that his health is perfectly normal. He denied that he had been admitted to the

King Husayn Medical Center for medical tests. Holding me tight with his left arm as we embraced before I ended my visit, he said: I am fine and my health is good, God be praised, as you can see.

Dr. Habash did not talk about political issues, but said: We are right, our people will win and our intifadah is continuing.

Mrs. Hilda Habash, who was sitting next to her husband, said: Our visit to Amman is primarily for family reasons. My daughter Maysa' is married here in Amman and most of my relatives and my husband's relatives are here in Jordan. She confirmed that her husband is in good health and does not need to be admitted to any hospital.

She stressed her thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn, praising his kindness and generosity.

Debt Discussed With London, Paris Clubs

JN2204091192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 92 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has managed to resolve its major budgetary problems in relation to its foreign debt repayments due in 1992 and is now trying to pave the way for a smooth ride through 1993, according to informed sources and economic analysts.

One of the key Jordanian expectations from its commercial creditors is an agreement to apply some of the provisions of the Brady plan and secure partial write-off, partial buy-back and partial swap of its debts as sought in a proposal the Kingdom has tabled in negotiations with the London Club of commercial banks, the sources said.

"All indications are that, despite the tough and sometimes rocky negotiations with the London Club, Jordan will be able to benefit from the Brady plan, particularly that the Kingdom's financial indicators after the Gulf crisis qualify it for such relief," said one of the sources.

Agreement was reached in February with the Paris Club of creditor governments on rescheduling $603 million in debt and interest payments due until mid-1993. The amount represents 100 per cent in principal and 50 per cent interest due in 1992 and 100 per cent of principal and interest due until June 30, 1993.

The agreement entails payment of 50 per cent of the interest due in 1992. The precise amount was not immediately known.

Jordan's is now awaiting the London Club's response, probably in the form of a draft agreement, to the proposals the Kingdom offered in early March.

The way was cleared for negotiations with the foreign creditors after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) certified that Jordan was adhering to an economic restructuring and revival programme agreement aimed at reducing the budget deficit and increasing revenues along with moving towards a freer market economy.

Jordan is also entitled to 40 million special drawing rights from the IMF—about $50 million. Although the amount is relatively small, an economic analyst says, "the most important thing is that Jordan has secured the IMF stamp of approval, which did in fact open the door for negotiations with creditors."

An informed source meanwhile rejected suggestions that the London Club had agreed to a 55 per cent discounted "debt buy-back" scheme for Jordan.

"It is a foregone conclusion that Jordan would be able to secure an agreement with the London Club, but the terms and modalities have to be discussed and finalised," said the source.

"Everything is being studied; options on the table include outright debt relief (write-off) and exchange of debts for capital holdings and investment in Jordan as well as conversion into non- convertible Jordanian currency," the source added.

In the agreement that it has reached with the Paris Club, Jordan has benefited from what has come to be known as the Houston Communique, under which it secured a 10-year extension with a 10-year grace period for government bilateral loans and an eight-year extension with a seven-year grace period for government-guaranteed commercial debts for development projects.

Jordan's total external debt, including long-term bilateral loans, government-guaranteed loans, commercial bank credits, short-term loans, bonds and leasing contracts, stood at JD [Jordanian Dinars] 6.052.5 billion (approximately $8.9 billion) at the end of 1990.

(Officials explained that the key reference amount as foreign debts excluded short-term loans, bonds and leasing contracts; and hence the $8 billion to $8.2 billion cited by officials)

A split of this amount showed that:

—JD 29.9 million to Arab governments and JD 345.1 million to Arab funds;
—JD 2,875.9 million to industrial countries (JD 1,222.9 million in bilateral loans and JD 1,753 million in export credit guarantees)
—JD 384.9 million to the (now-defunct) Soviet Union;
—JD 6.4 million to China;
—JD 25.7 million to Brazil;
—JD 883.4 million to foreign banks;
—JD 38.9 million to foreign companies;
—JD 863.6 million in multilateral loans (the International Monetary Fund JD 62.2 million; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Agency JD 512.1 million; the European Investment Bank JD 68.4 million, the Islamic Development Bank JD 43 million; the Arab Monetary Fund JD 19.2 million and the Arab Development Fund JD 128.9 [as published])

Short-term loans were JD 26.6 million and bonds were worth JD 171.2 million.

Amount owed on leasing contracts—mainly Royal Jordanian leases of French-made aircraft—stood at JD 398 million.

The reference amount of foreign debts, which included undisbursed but contracted credits—declined to $7.2 billion in early 1992 after the government cancelled a contract to purchase French fighter planes valued at around $1 billion.

"Jordan has done well in settling its foreign obligations until mid-1993 with the agreement with the Paris Club and expectations from the London Club," said a well-informed souce. "Now officials are trying to pave the way for 1993," added the official, noting that Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and senior officials had visited several European capitals last month.

Finance Minister Basil Jardanah is scheduled to visit European counries next month for follow-up discussions and bilateral rescheduling agreements with Paris Club members.

Al-Murr Terms U.S. Stand on Aid 'Positive'

NC2204070892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker has conveyed to engineer Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and defense minister, the U.S. stand regarding aid to the Lebanese Army, which the minister described as positive and earnest.

Ambassador Crocker said that his government has a strong desire to help the Lebanese Army, especially in the present circumstances. He said that there are signs that Lebanon will prosper in the future. He again urged all parties in the south to exercise self-restraint and called for free and honest parliamentary elections. He said:

[Begin al-Murr recording in progress] ...desire and readiness to help the Lebanese Army, which has been performing its task. You are aware that the Lebanese Army, which has the confidence of the citizens, the government, and the legitimate authority, is performing its task in the best manner. Therefore, we must secure for it the equipment it needs so that it may be able to complete its deployment when the legitimate authority asks it to do so. It is for this reason that we discussed all these matters and asked for assistance. We first asked them to give us our due, namely the remainder of the aid that is due to the Lebanese state. We then asked for new aid. Today we received positive responses and we hope that these responses will yield tangible results in the coming weeks. [end recording]

Buwayz on Possible Israeli Strike, Kurdish Bases

NC1604131392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Speaking about the situation in southern Lebanon and the Kurdish training camps in al-Biqa', Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said he does not rule out the possibility that Israel may launch another operation in the south.

[Begin Buwayz recording] We do not rule out the possibility that Israel may try to obstruct the peace conference by carrying out another operation to increase tension in southern Lebanon. It is, however, very difficult to speculate on this. [end recording]

Buwayz stressed that Turkey has not sent any threats or warnings on the Kurdish presence in al-Biqa'.

[Begin Buwayz recording] We have not read the details about these camps. I can affirm that, contrary to several media reports, the Turkish interior minister has not sent threats or warnings. The issue is being addressed by the countries concerned; that is, Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon. [end recording]

Turkish Envoy on 'Good News' From Syria on Kurds

NC1704131992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Marwan Hamadah, minister of economy and trade, met today with Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon Aydan Karahan. The two officials discussed the bilateral economic talks scheduled to begin in June.

Following the meeting, Karahan said that he and Hamadah reviewed the agenda for the coming talks. Answering a question on the presence of Kurdish militia in al-Biqa', the ambassador said that good news has been received from Damascus on this matter. The news is heartwarming not only for the Turks, he said, but also for the Lebanese and Syrians.

Iranian Envoy Conveys Velayati Message to Buwayz

NC1804142992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] Mohammad Khonsari, head of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's North African and Middle Eastern Department, today conveyed a verbal message to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati concerning bilateral relations. Khonsari visited the Foreign Ministry accompanied by Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad Dastmalchian. Speaking after the meeting, Khonsari said:

[Begin recording] [Khonsari] We met with his excellency the foreign minister and conveyed to him a verbal message from His Excellency Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati on bilateral relations.

[Unidentified correspondent] In discussing the relations between the two countries, did Lebanon ask Iran for assistance to free the two German hostages?

[Khonsari] The issue is not in the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran....

[Correspondent, interrupting] For assistance?

[Khonsari, continuing] But we will not hesitate to extend any assistance to solve any problem facing the Lebanese people.

[Correspondent] Mr. Khonsari, you met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam yesterday, and today you met with Minister Buwayz. Is this connected with the Israeli threats or the two German hostages?

[Khonsari] No. This was not the issue. We had a meeting in Damascus of our ambassadors to Middle East and North African Arab countries.

[Correspondent] There have been Israeli threats and American concern conveyed to Lebanon. Do you think that the resistance in the south should be suspended for a while or continued?

[Khonsari] All Lebanese people are always ready to stand fast and confront any aggression or threat by the Zionist enemy. [end recording]

Al-Murr, French Group Discuss Equipping Army

NC2204104392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister engineer Michel al-Murr met with a French delegation comprising economic and military officials in al-Yarzah today. The meeting was attended by a number of high-ranking Lebanese Army officers. Discussions focused on equipping the Lebanese Army with materiel.

Airlines To Continue Attempts To Defy Embargo

NC2204091692 Cairo MENA in English 0755 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, April 22 (MENA)—Major General 'Adnan al-Jabi, board chairman of Syrian Airways, said his country would continue attempts to fly to Libya despite the air embargo imposed by the Security Council, reported AL-AHRAM on its front page.

Al-Jabi, who left Cairo yesterday after attending the Arab Air Transport Conference, said that maintaining Syrian flights to Libya was a position of principle adopted by the Syrian Government and said that the Syrian airlines had not received any instructions to stop the flights, the paper added.

Envoy Denies Arms Transfer, Lockerbie Connection

JN2104143992 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Apr 92 pp 1, 26

[Excerpt] Washington—In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Syria's ambassador in Washington has denied any Syrian connection in the bombing of the U.S. plane. He said he challenges any official or party to confirm such allegations. The Syrian ambassador also prepared an official memorandum that he will send to TIME magazine which published these allegations. The ambassador also said Syria is being subjected to a tendentious campaign of allegations.

Syrian official sources in Washington asserted that Syria did not receive U.S. weapons during the Gulf war. AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Syria will convey its official position to the United States.

AL-ITTIHAD further learned that the feverish campaign launched by the Zionist and Israeli propaganda machine in the United States days before the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks is part of the scheme approved by the AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] conference for Israeli propaganda, which was held in Washington few days ago. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Official, Delegation Return From Libya

JN2004153992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Comrade Dr. Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of the Regional Trade Union and Law Bureaus, and his delegation returned to Damascus this morning from the Libyan Jamahiriyah. There they had participated in the Arab Democratic Revolutionary Forum for political forces and parties in the Arab world to study ways of confronting the dangers facing the Arab nation, particularly the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Ba'th Party Delegation Returns From DPRK

JN1904192092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1920 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Damascus, 19 Apr (SANA)—A Syrian Arab delegation led by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, returned to Damascus today following a cordial visit to the DPRK. The delegation represented the Syrian Arab Republic at the friendly Korean people's celebrations marking President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday. [passage omitted]

Paper Names Turkish Group Leaders To Be Expelled

NC1704193792 Istanbul 2000 IKIBIN'E DOGRU in Turkish 12 Apr 92 p 25

[Text] The Syrians, who have designated the coming years as a period of economic development, do not want problems with any country, including Turkey. Syria is getting ready to expel all organizations except those waging national liberation struggles. The cadres of the Dev-Sol [Revolutionary Left] organization were expelled from the country after its militants were caught carrying arms in Damascus two months ago. This is because people with refugee status cannot carry arms in Syria. Mirac Ural, the general secretary of THKP-C (Acilciler) [faction of the Turkish People's Liberation Party] also left Syria. Sarp Kuray, general secretary of the 16 June Organization, members of his group, and the leader of the TKP-Kivilcim [Turkish Communist Party-Spark] Musa and his friends also face expulsion.

Arab Unity Amid New World Order Needed

JN2104160992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President Hafiz al-Asad is continuing his tour of Arabian Gulf states amid official and popular receptions and great interest reflected in the media which has praised Syria's pan-Arab role and its persevering efforts to unify the Arab ranks and restore unity and understanding to the one Arab family. President al-Asad's talks with Gulf leaders have focused on the general situation in the Arab arena, regional developments, and the means to bring the Arab stance up to the level of serious challenges.

Arab solidarity is a basic objective of Syrian policy. It has now become a pan-Arab responsibility that rises above all other responsibilities. The nation is facing serious dangers. Indeed, it seems unable to face these dangers in view of the fragmentation and strife from which it is suffering and the gap between the nation and a united stance and objective.

If we review the past few years and months we will find that Syria has on all occasions warned the Arabs, through President al-Asad, against the dangers that threaten their existence and future. These dangers result from stormy

international developments which Zionism has exploited, using all its capabilities, to promote heavy Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and create hostility toward the Arab nation in a way that facilitates the implementation of its expansionist schemes in our region without any reaction from the international community.

Zionism's instigation and organized power have gone to the point of urging certain bodies to focus the world's eyes on the seriousness of the weapons which the Arabs own in order to seek justifications and pretexts that call for stripping them of these weapons. Meanwhile, Israel has a huge arsenal of all types of destructive nuclear and traditional weapons and is annually receiving military aid free of charge. Although the Arabs were the first to welcome a new world order based on the principles of justice and equality, assuming the responsibility of implementing international law without appeasing anybody, and giving a new momentum to the United Nations, this order has concentrated its efforts against Arab countries and completely ignored the catastrophic danger Israel is posing to the future of security and peace in the Middle East and the world.

This world order has imposed a siege on Libya for merely suspecting that some of its citizens are involved in the bombing of a U.S. airplane. This was denied by Libya which offered to hand over its citizens to neutral justice. Meanwhile, Israel is daily violating international law, defying the United Nations and its resolutions, exercising an organized war of annihilation and expulsion against the entire people of Palestine, and erasing civilization and history from all the occupied Arab territories.

Although the Arabs responded to the U.S. peace proposals and showed utmost flexibility, whether in Madrid or Washington, the result was that Israel launched the most serious settlement activities of their kind in history when it devoted all its budget and all the assistance and grants flowing into it to change the features of the occupied Arab territories and create a fait accompli that leaves the Arabs, who are under occupation, no option but to emigrate or die.

What is more serious is that the whole international community has tangibly felt Israel's rejection of peace and its defiance of every international body demanding a halt to settlement activity. It is daily witnessing the fall of hundreds of casualties from among Arab children by the bullets of Zionist terrorists. Despite this, the UN Security Council resolutions do not go beyond expressing regrets and hopes as if Israel is above international law and whatever is applied on the rest of the international community is not applied on Israel.

This tragic situation has time and again urged Syria to warn the Arabs of what is happening around them and undoubtedly prompted President al-Asad to directly contact the brothers and evaluate the developments in the region and the general situation to reach a stance that is able to fight evil, ward off danger, and face international developments and their effects on the international community with a unified Arab front whose word is heard and whose name is respected. The Arabs who supported the call for a new world order based on justice and equality cannot support an order that refuses to employ justice and equality toward the issues of their region and employs two totally different standards.

In order for the Arabs to have their voice heard, there is no alternative for them but to be solid and rise up to the level of pan-Arab responsibility and the serious challenge. This is the aim of President al-Asad's tour and continuous efforts—efforts blessed by the nation's masses everywhere and on which they are pinning great hopes to save the Arab future and continue pressing pan-Arab demands.

Afghanistan

Hatef—State Decisions Being Made 'Jointly'

LD2104193292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Esteemed Vice President 'Abdorrahim Hatef received a number of domestic and foreign journalists in the presidential headquarters this morning. Hatef told reporters that vice presidents are undertaking state affairs in their relevant fields. Decisions concerning major national and state affairs are (?being made) jointly by a board consisting of the vice presidents, the prime minister, presidents of all houses of the National Assembly, the supreme judge, and the Council of Constitution. In line with Afghan traditions, since I am older than other members of this board, I am leading it, he said.

Esteemed Hatef added that the republican state has expressed its readiness again and again to transfer (?executive) power to the neutral council of Afghans which is being formed under the UN peace plan. This plan has also been accepted by (?a number) of mojahedin. However, in view of the rapid changes in the country's politico- military situation, it is possible that necessary changes will be introduced into the mechanism of transfer of power in line with the current situations and realities. We believe that any plan acceptable to all mojahedin can be implemented.

Esteemed Hatef added: I hope the transfer of power, which has been accepted in principle, will be carried out peacefully. Confrontation of forces should be prevented and the role of the UN organization should be preserved in the implementation and speeding up of this process. He added that the present critical situation in the country demands that all Afghans, all parties, and all political organizations and jihad forces decide about the future and destiny of their country with a feeling of responsibility to history. Let us all be united and consider the national interest above personal, group, and organization interests [words indistinct].

Mas'ud on Establishing 'Islamic' Government

LD2104201392 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Video report from Afghanistan by correspondents Jerome Bony and Jean-Francois Hoffmann, including recording of interview with Jam'iyat-e Eslami military commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud; Mas'ud speaks in Afghan with superimposed French translation; first paragraph is introduction]

[Excerpts] The situation in Afghanistan is deadlocked; the talks between the mojahedin for the formation of a unity government in Kabul have clearly not come up with anything. The duel for power continues between the moderates of Commander Mas'ud, who are attempting to avert bloodshed, and the fundamentalists of Golboddin Hekmatyar. The latter say that they will attack Kabul on 26 April if the government does not surrender.

Our special correspondents were able to meet Commander Mas'ud 60 km north of Kabul. The key opposition leader issues a call to the political chiefs of the guerrillas. We have an exclusive Antenne-2 report from Jerome Bony and Jean-Francois Hoffmann:

[Bony] [passage omitted] For two years already Mas'ud has been in contact with government officials, military figures, and members of the party; as soon as they felt that the regime was tottering they turned their coats and began talking terms with him. [video shows Mas'ud talking to circle of men] In Charikar today the mojahedin are shoulder to shoulder with the army; Mas'ud gives instructions to the officers to guarantee the security of the sector against the mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami. [video shows men on guard in town streets, then Mas'ud pointing on locations on map to army officers] He says he is ready to enter Kabul:

[Mas'ud] By the grace of God we will enter Kabul quickly. From the military point of view we have no problem in entering Kabul, but we have to resolve other matters in order to avoid bloodshed.

[Bony] What regime would you like to establish in Afghanistan?

[Mas'ud] It has always been our wish to establish an Islamic republic in Afghanistan.

[Bony] The main obstacle to the progression of the lion of Panjshir is not the army, it is the Hezb-e Eslami. Yesterday for the first time Commander Mas'ud officially met a commander of this fundamentalist party—before Mas'ud's arrival he controlled this sector. If Mas'ud entered Kabul perhaps we would witness the same scenes of reconciliation between these mojahedin and the government army as here in Charikar; however, along the lion of Panjshir's path to the gates of Kabul are the fundamentalists of the Hezb-e Eslami, and with them, reconciliation does not appear to be on the agenda in the near future.

UN's Sevan Meets With Mas'ud in Mazar-e Sharif

BK2204112692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] KABUL, April 22 (AFP)—U.N. special negotiator on Afghanistan Benon Sevan met Wednesday [22 April] with top mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in a town the rebel leader controls north of Kabul, reporters on the scene said.

It was the first meeting between Sevan and Mas'ud, who has proposed that a mojahedin interim government take over in Kabul and whose troops are poised on the northern perimeter of the capital.

The reporters, who left before the meeting had concluded, said that they saw some 1,000 Mas'ud troops on the road just south of Charikar, the town some 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Kabul where the meeting took place.

The troops said that they had no intention of attacking the capital and had orders to hold their positions.

Smaller groups of troops under the command of rival mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, closer to Kabul, made no attempt to stop the journalists as they have done in past days.

Top level military sources said here Wednesday that an attack on Kabul's southern approaches by Hekmatyar's troops appeared to have been blunted at the town of Charasyab, with the help of northern troops pulled out of Gardeyz.

Government commanders in Gardeyz, some 100 kilometers (60 filesw) south of Kabul, had been trying to negotiate a "bloodless takeover" of the garrison town with predominanly southern Pushtun mojahedin for the past few days.

However, the presence of the northern troops, some of them Tajik and others Uzbek, had prevented any agreement, they said.

Sevan, who has been in Kabul for the past six days, and flew to the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif Tuesday, is believed to be discussing the viability of a mojahedin interim government with Mas'ud.

His talks came against a background of a reported "revolt" by mojahedin commanders fighting inside Afghanistan against their political leaders based in Pakistan, who have balked at forming a coalition.

Islamic Unity Party Urges Consensus

LD2104193892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The Islamic Unity Party today opposed any single-party military action against the Kabul regime. The spokesperson for the Islamic Unity Party in Tehran said today that any political and military decision on the situation in Kabul should be adopted with the agreement of all the mojahedin groups.

Meanwhile, in a message broadcast from Peshawar today, Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of one of the Afghanistan parties, again threatened to enter Kabul by force. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Mojahedin Battles, Troop Status

Capital of Logar Province Falls

BK2104145492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan says several more cities and towns have fallen to Mojahedin. A strategic town near Pol-e 'Alam, capital of Logar province, fell this morning to mojahedin. According to reports all villages around the town are also now under the control of mojahedin. Mojahedin are also reported to have captured Sherkhan Bandar in Konduz Province.

Kabul Troops, Hekmatyar Rebels Clash

BK2104161192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1558 GMT 21 Apr 92

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, April 21 (AFP)—Fighting broke out Tuesday [21 April] south of the embattled Afghan capital of Kabul, as the crumbling regime inside said it was ready to hand over power to a rebel council.

Fighting was reported 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of Kabul during the day. Witnesses said Kabul government troops were fighting rebels of radical faction leader Golboddin Hekmatyar who were trying to push into the capital from the south.

Witnesses who were in the Logar District to the south reported government troops firing heavy salvoes of BM-20 rockets.

Hekmatyar has given an ultimatum to the Kabul authorities, telling them to surrender and transfer power by Sunday to a council comprising commanders from his Hezb-e Eslami and other factions, or face attack.

The United Nations was mobilizing to avoid a catastrophe. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali was due to arrive in Islamabad on Friday from India for talks on Afghanistan, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

In rebel-encircled Kabul, Afghanistan's acting president, 'Abdorrahman Hatef, told a press conference he was ready to hand over power to a rebel council including guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a rival of Hekmatyar who has become a powerful figure in the political equation.

Hatef, presiding over the shaky administration running the capital since president Najibollah was ousted from power when he tried to flee Thursday [16 April], said he was sticking to Najibollah's pledge in March to hand over all state functions to a new government under an Afghan peace plan.

"We abide by that," said Hatef, 66, who left it open whether the council that would take over would be made up of "neutrals," as the United Nations had proposed, or

by mojahedin only, as events seem to have made likely. "We have no preference because in principle we have agreed on a full transfer of all the powers of state," he said. "If all agree (on the idea of mojahedin council) proposed by resistance leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, whose troops are to the north of the city, we agree also," Hatef added.

Even the U.N. special envoy to Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, has admitted that the U.N. plan seems to be giving way to the weight of rebel victories, and that the council would probably be made up exclusively of mojahedin.

Hatef also said that "in principle we do not see any obstacle in the way" of ousted president Najibollah leaving Kabul.

The question of Najibollah's departure is hanging over the peace process. In India, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said he knew Najibollah had wanted to come to India.

But the resistance's political leaders, based in Pakistan, failed Tuesday to agree on the formation of the council proposed by Hatef, sources in Islamabad said.

A resistance source who had access to the earlier inconclusive meetings said each of the various factions wanted its own government.

"Even those who are weak politically and militarily are bargaining. They want to have their own president," he said.

Hekmatyar has slammed Mas'ud for meeting with regime leaders in the past few days, and the two men are now bitter rivals.

Mas'ud, apparently fed up with his bickering political leaders, issued them with an ultimatum, his brother Mohammed Yahya said in Pakistan.

If the leadership could not agree by Thursday to form the council, the commanders in the field would get together and decide on the council among themselves, Yahya told AFP in Islamabad.

A member of the minority Tajik community, Mas'ud teamed up with Adbul Rashid Dostam, an ethnic Uzbek militia commander who broke ranks with the government, to take over peacefully in the northern town of Mazar-e Sharif last month.

The town's fall has spawned a pattern of coalitions between rebels and government troops and peaceful takeovers of all the major cities, except Kabul.

Sevan tried to meet Mas'ud in Mazar-e Sharif, but the commander could not meet him, and Sevan met instead with Dostam and members of a northern coalition, journalists who witnessed the meeting said.

Sevan implored the group not to battle for Kabul.

"It is time for peace, there is nothing left to fight for," Sevan was quoted as telling the group.

Mas'ud has met several times with Afghan Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil, earning the wrath of Hekmatyar, an ethnic Pashtun.

Strategic Cities Captured; Appeal for Aid

BK2104154492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the country's strategic cities and towns are falling to the mojahedin one by one. According to AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY Lowgar Province's capital Pol-e 'Alam, Zabol Province's capital Qalat, and Ghowr Province's headquarters (Chahar Surang) have fallen to mojahedin forces. The report adds that mojahedin forces have also captured a strategic border town of Sherkhan Bandar near the Tajikistan border. Moreover, troops stationed in the entire Qandahar division and at the (Idgah) and Sangi posts have surrendered.

Meanwhile, mojahedin commanders in Farah Province have appealed to Islamic states, the international community, and the United Nations to dispatch food on an emergency basis as a famine-like situation is developing in Afghanistan.

Barrracks Captured in Logar Province

LD2104175792 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] In Logar Province, five big centers and several security posts of the shaken regime have been conquered by the hero mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan. The report says: The hero mojaheds of Lashkar-e Isar of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan have conquered two big government centers in Konjak, Tangi Wakhjan. The brigades of Mohammad Agha District and Beni Sherafgan and the rocket brigade and several other military centers have been captured by our mojahedin.

Troops in Gardeyz Poised for March

BK2204111292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] PESHAWAR, Pakistan, April 22 (AFP)—Thousands of Afghan mojahedin commanded by Jalaluddin Haqqani entered the town of Gardeyz about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Kabul and were preparing to march on the capital, reliable rebel sources said here Wednesday [22 April].

After 15 hours of fruitless negotiations for a takeover of the city which lasted through the night, Commander Haqqani gave the order to invade Gardeyz on four fronts.

"Everything has fallen into our hands," he said in a message received here.

'Thousands' Leave Camps, Join Mojahedin

LD2104180892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Thousands of mojahedin have arrived on the mojahedin lines inside Afghanistan to abort the recent communist conspiracy.

The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that dozens of mojahedin go to the mojahedin lines every day from liberated areas inside the country and from refugee camps in support of the stand of Hezb-e Eslami declared against the recent communist coalition (?plot), and they are moving to places designated by the hero commander for military operations.

Our correspondent reports from refugee camps that now there are no camps from which dozens of mojahedin do not leave for the homeland. Hatred for the recently formed communist coalition administration increases in refugee camps. It is said that mojahedin offices and local hotels along the border are so congested that there are no places to stay over for a night. (?Reports from refugee camps) say that over the past week more than 50,000 mojahedin have arrived on the jihad lines and they are continuing to arrive.

According to foreign news sources, huge numbers of mojahedin have been stationed in trenches near Kabul and other big cities. Strong hatred has been caused among the ordinary people, state officials, and the entire Armed Forces in every part of the country by the (?attempts) of known people and the supporters of the defunct regime to sustain the communist administration.

Reports say that the situation in Kabul and other big cities has become very tense and the people wonder why there are attempts to sustain the communist regime rather than attempting to overthrow it. Reports say that our compatriots are now ready to join the committed mojahedin quickly against this shameful conspiracy.

On the other hand, people's lives have been disrupted by the supporters of the regime in cities which are under the control of the waning regime. There is no security, people's property is being looted, food and oil are not available. Also, relations between the supporters of the regime and its opponents in the army of Afghanistan are such that there is a danger of military clashes every moment.

India

Najibollah 'Still in UN Office' in Kabul

BK2104120092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that the ousted Afghanistan president, Dr. Najibollah, is still in the UN office in Kabul and the situation in the city is calm but tense. Making a statement, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said that though there has been no formal request from Dr. Najibollah for asylum in India, there were feelers in this regard. He said that Indian personnel in Afghanistan are safe and the government has made arrangements for their protection. Giving the details of the developments in Afghanistan after Dr. Najibollah stepped down from office, Mr. Faleiro said India is in touch with the UN secretary general and other countries over the problem.

Responding to members' concern about emergence of fundamentalists there, he said that India wants emergence of a sovereign, united, and independent Afghanistan. He said India supports UN efforts to bring peace in Afghanistan and hopes that a definable political structure will emerge in Afghanistan soon.

Delhi 'Continues To Deal' With Kabul Government

BK2104162692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said today that India's relations with Afghanistan are on state-to-state basis. Replying to questions by newsmen, he said New Delhi continues to deal with the government in Kabul. He said the communications that have been received from the new Afghan charge d'affaires in New Delhi are under the active consideration of the government. The spokesman said the Government of India is in touch with the UN authorities on the developments in Afghanistan. He denied any knowledge of Dr. Najibollah's desire to meet the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, in New Delhi. The spokesman described the situation in Afghanistan as tense and uncertain.

UN's Ghali Arrives, Comments on Afghanistan

BK2204040292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, says the objective of the United Nations in Afghanistan is to maintain its political independence, defend its territorial integrity, and to promote national reconciliation. Talking to newsmen at the airport last night, he, however, refused to comment on whether the ousted president, Dr. Najib, is safe or not.

Earlier, he was received at the airport by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit; India's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr. C.R. Ghare Khan; and other senior officials when he arrived on a four-day visit to the country. From New Delhi, Dr. Ghali will go to Pakistan on a two-day visit and is expected to have talks with the Pakistani leaders on the Afghan situation.

Kashmir Strike Protests Ghali Visit

BK2104161392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Jammu, India, April 21 (AFP)—Kashmir was brought to a virtual standstill Tuesday [21 April] by a

general strike called to protest a visit by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali to India, witnesses said.

The strike, called by Moslem militants fighting for the secession of India's only Moslem-majority state, was called to protest the U.N.'s failure to implement 1948 its resolutions for a plebiscite to decide Kashmir's political fate. Butrus Ghali was due to arrive in New Delhi late Tuesday.

Schools and colleges, shops and businesses were shut and vehicles stayed off the roads in the Kashmir valley, the stronghold of Moslem militancy, in response to the strike call, residents reached by telephone from this winter capital city of the state said.

There were no reports of violence connected with the strike.

The plebiscite, opposed by New Delhi, was proposed to ascertain whether the people of India's northernmost state would like to remain with India, join Pakistan or have independence.

Most militant groups favor Kashmir's union with Pakistan, but the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front is fighting for independence from both India and Pakistan.

The two neighbors have fought two wars over Kashmir since independence from British rule in 1947. Pakistan holds the northern third of the state.

Pakistan Asked To Recall Alleged Spy

BK2104160592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] New Delhi, April 21 (AFP)—India has asked Pakistan to recall an employee of its high commission (embassy) here who is suspected of involvement in espionage, a foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday [21 April].

The spokesman said the employee, identified as Arshad Ali, had been engaged in "activities prejudicial to the interests of India."

He said New Delhi had given Islamabad time until Friday to recall Ali, who was allegedly caught red-handed by security officials last week accepting secret documents from an Indian national.

No further details, including Ali's status at the embassy or the nature of the documents he was accused of accepting last Friday, were given. Embassy officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Opposition Demands Freeze on Union Carbide Assets

BK2104123292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Opposition in the Lok Sabha today demanded immediate freezing of the assets of the Union Carbide and extradition of its chief, Mr. Anderson, to India for trial in the Bhopal gas tragedy case. Raising the issue, Mrs. Malini Bhattacharya, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], referred to reports of attempts being made by the multinational to sell off its assets to escape paying compensation to the victims. She also said that there are reports in United States of Mr. M.A. Singham having absconded and not traceable. [sentence as heard] Several opposition members joined her in criticizing the government for keeping silent over the issue and demanded that the government should come out with steps to arrest Mr. Anderson and pay compensation to the victims who are holding a rally in the capital today. The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, assured them that he will collect all the facts about the reports and share them with the house.

Iran

Besharati on 'Closer' Ties With Gulf States

LD2104150992 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Certain groups in certain governments are worried about closer and better relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries in the Persian Gulf region, First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told the TEHRAN TIMES here today.

He maintained that Iran's relations with countries across the Persian Gulf are improving in various areas after the Iraqi imposed war ended in 1988.

"You now that Iran's relations with its neighbours and elsewhere in the world are now different after the war," he said.

He said these relations during the Iraqi imposed war were the result of hostile attitudes against Tehran by certain other countries. But, he added, this changed after the war as facts were divulged that Iraq and not Iran was the initiator and that Iran does not have an eye on the territories of others.

"Iran enjoyed cordial relations with the United Arab Emirates during the entire period of the imposed war," TEHRAN TIMES quoted Besharati as saying.

He said there was crisis in the Shaykhdom of Sharjah, in which Iran supported Shaykh Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi with all sincerity. "We still consider him as our friend, but his recent stand on Iran is just surprising to us."

After the culmination of the Islamic revolution in 1979, he said Iran tried to infuse new life into the islands in the Persian Gulf and comprehensive construction plans have been under way for the last many years including those in the Abu-Musa Island.

The plans include construciton of a hospital, making provision for sweet water and other day-to-day needs of the people residing there.

These days the issue of Abu-Musa Island is in the air and several details have appeared in the media which have no truth at all, he noted.

"We abide by what Iran agreed with the United Arab Emirates shortly after its creation in 1971," Besharati said.

Kurdish Leader Talabani Visits Tehran

Meets With Military Commanders

NC2004182692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], who is currently visiting Tehran at the invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Iranian Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], and General Vahidi, commander of the al-Quds [Jerusalem] Forces, yesterday 19 April. IRGC officers and members of the PUK delegation attended the meeting.

Gen. Reza'i and the other commanders gave the brother secretary general and his delegation a warm welcome, the two sides assessing the significant fraternal ties between the two peoples and the means to bolster and promote these ties.

The brother secretary general spoke about the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan including the economic crisis created by the ruling dictatorial regime aiming to tighten the noose around the people of Iraqi Kurdistan—people who are ready for their first democratic experience in the Kurdish parliamentary elections to elect the legitimate representatives of the Iraqi Kurdistan people.

Gen. Mohsen Reza'i described the parliamentary elections in Iraqi Kurdistan as free and democratic and as the effective way to get rid of dictatorship and despotism. He said the dictatorship in Iraq, which is known for annihilating defenseless citizens with chemical weapons, can never mislead its victims with false statements. He pointed to Iran's stand, giving every means of support to the oppressed nations, including the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The IRGC commander in chief and the other commanders gave the brother secretary general and his delegation a warm send off.

The same day, PUK Secretary General Brother Jalal Talabani and his delegation met the Syrian ambassador in Tehran. The ambassador embraced his guest and shook hands with delegation members. The brother secretary general briefed him on the prevailing situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and how Syria can help alleviate the economic crisis imposed by Iraq's ruling dictatorship on the Kurdish people.

Brother Jalal Talabani spoke about the sufferings of the Iraqi Kurdistan people through the unjust economic blockade imposed by the dictatorship to quash its people and to starve them and bombard them into submitting to despotism and destructive humiliation.

Notes Date of Kurdish Elections

LD2104182292 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Local parliamentary elections will be held in Iraqi Kurdistan on May 17, following an agreement reached between Iraqi Kurdish parties.

According to the secretary of Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani, UN peacekeeping forces, the European Parliament, as well as parliaments of Iran, Syria and Turkey have been invited to supervise over the soundness of the elections.

Speaking to IRNA, Talabani called the Iraqi Government's position towards the elections as 'hostile'. He accused 'the dictator Saddam' of trying to throw obstacles on the way of the election by claiming that it has been arranged with the support of aliens. "We predict that Saddam's regime would resort to terrorist activities and sabotage during the election," he remarked.

He also denied rumours that there were differences between him and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) leader Mas'ud Barzani. "We are friends and like brothers and in full agreement on major strategic issues in Kurdistan front."

On ways to resolve Kurdistan isssue, Talabani said "we are ready to accept any democratic and political solution to settle Iraq's problems, including the issue of the Kurds, but PUK in its recent congress has concluded that holding direct talks with the Baghdad regime is of no use."

"A political and peaceful solution is not possible with this regime, so we have turned to the other alternative, that is fighting," Talabani said.

Government Strafes Kurdish Villages in Kifri

LD2104104692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Fighter aircraft of the Iraqi regime yesterday bombed the residential areas in the north of that country. According to the Radio Patriotic Front of Kordestan [radio jebhe-e mihani-e Kordestan] several villages in the districts of the Kifri region were the targets of the bombs of Iraqi regime fighter bombers. As a consequence, dozens of civilians in that region were killed or injured.

U.S. military authorities have for some time now implicity given permission to Iraq to fly its fighter aircraft. U.S. authorities say that Iraqi planes are allowed

to fly in the airspace of that country, below the 36th Parallel, provided that this does not create any threats to Western forces in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, following the attack by Iraqi fighter aircraft yesterday, Kurdish dissidents shelled the bases of Ba'thist forces in the Qaradagh region. The radio Patriotic Iraqi Kordestan reported that in the course of this shelling, a number of the troops of the Iraqi regime were killed. Turkish fighter aircraft also bombed the northern regions of Iraq two days ago.

Reportage on Mojahedin, Afghan Refugee Situation

Foreign Ministry Head Receives Jam'iyat Leader

LD1904151992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] The leader of Afghanistan's Jam'iyat-e Eslami Party, having thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its position on the Afghan issue and its efforts toward uniting Afghan groups, has called on Iran to continue supporting the Afghan mojahedin until their final victory. The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that Jam'iyat leader Borhanoddin Rabbani met with our country's Foreign Ministry director general [Mir Mahmud Musavi] in Islamabad this evening, and having declared thanks said: The victories achieved by the Afghan mojahedin in the past few days have taken us closer to the final stages of establishing an Islamic government as desired by the people, and for this reason the Islamic Republic of Iran's support could be useful and effective for the Afghan people, more than ever before. Mr. Rabbani also discussed the Afghan mojahedin's joint session with the Pakistani officials last night with our country's Foreign Ministry director general.

In the meeting, the Foreign Ministry director general, having reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand based on the need to establish an independent and Islamic government as desired by the Afghan people in that country, called on the mojahedin leaders to take care in their actions, and to maintain the necessary vigilance in the face of various conspiracies. He also called for unity among the mojahedin groups.

Committee To Oversee Refugees Proposed

LD2004103892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] The chairman and members of the Central Council representing Afghanistan's Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami in Iran met the Interior Ministry's director general for immigration affairs this morning. Expressing gratitude for Iran's unfailing support for the Afghan people, they called for the formation of a committee to oversee the return of Afghans to their country.

According to our correspondent, the Interior Ministry's director general for immigration affairs conveyed his congratulations for the victory of the Muslims of Afghanistan and asked that mojahedin groups maintain unity in the course of the country's current developments. Referring to the shared history, culture, religion, and language between our country and Afghanistan, he said: In the past 13 years we have not forced a single Afghan brother to leave our country and 3 million of them are currently in Iran; 90 percent of which live freely in the towns of our country. He added: In addition, 400,000 Afghan students are studying at Iran's expense and without any UN assistance.

The director general for immigration affairs said: a plan for the repatriation of Afghans was prepared some time ago with UN coordination. And, in view of the fact that many Afghan refugees have been enquiring at governorates-general about the quickest possible way of returning to their country, any Afghan can receive an immediate travel pass and rapid arrangements will be made for his return.

UNHCR To Assist Return of Refugees

LD2104225892 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to Tehran, Omar Bakhit, today announced UNHCR's readiness to handle the question of Afghan refugees who wish to return home.

Bakhit made the remark in a meeting with Director General of Foreign Nationals and Immigration Office of the Interior Ministry, Ahmad Husseini.

Husseini appealed to Bakhit to urge the Geneva based UNHCR officials to provide financial backing and other facilities to materialise the return of the Afghan refugees to their home-country.

They agreed on setting up a committee with participation of organisations under the United Nations, including the UNHCR and Iran's Interior Ministry to put a timetable to solve the question.

The meeting was held in the wake of frequent appeals by the refugees as well as the Afghan parties to Iran's provincial officials to help them return home.

Meanwhile, according to a report from Mashhad, northeastern Iran, almost 1,500 Afghans crossed the border to the Afghan province of Harat today. The return of Afghan refugees to their home country began following the fall of the head of the Kabul regime Najibollah last week.

It said 20 trucks containing food and clothes provided by the Afghans residing in Mashhad were sent to the warstricken Afghan people through Dogarun-Taibad border point.

Official reports on the number of Afghans returning home is not yet available. There are about three million Afghan refugees in Iran.

Statements, Commentaries on UN Libya Resolutions

Khomeyni on U.S. 'Bullying'

LD2104193192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni spoke this morning to a gathering of commanders and personnel of the Logistics Center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, students and teachers from various districts of Tehran, and various other groups of the population. He considered that the responsibilities of the era of the country's construction and reconstruction are factors determining the destiny of the system and the revolution. He emphasized the national resolve in the reconstruction process and said that everyone should know about the extent of the struggles involved in this process and should support the officials of the system and the revolution in the various political, economic, military, and cultural spheres. He added: Endeavors along the path of the country's growth and progress is an Islamic, revolutionary, and national duty for everyone.

Further in his remarks, he pointed to the second round of the elections of the fourth Majles and called on the people to vote for deputies who are capable, well-informed, committed with revolutionary backgrounds, true followers of the line of the imam and the leader, and safeguard the revolution and Islam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also condemned the sanctions brought against Libya by the arrogant Western world, based on imaginary pretexts. He said: Within the framework of its new world order, the United States intends to be the tough bully on the international scene. It terrifies independent countries by picking on imaginary excuses to conduct massive attacks against them. He pointed out that today, the international community shoulders a very heavy responsibility in the face of the U.S.' bullying. He said: Terrorism and hijacking aircraft is condemned, but why does Washington reward the criminals who downed Iran's passenger airliner? He added: The conscience of humanitarian society should put the United States on trial as the world's biggest criminal and terrorist.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said, in connection with recent developments in Afghanistan: We ask the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries once again to move toward fulfilling the will of the people of Afghanistan and to not accept anything except the establishment of an Islamic government.

Arab Attitude Toward Sanctions Viewed

LD2004145592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1009 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Six days after the start of the UN Security Council sanctions against Libya, that country still resists handing over the accused to the United States and her allies. A top Libyan official stressed that his government will not hand over to the West the two Libyans suspected in the bombing of the Pan American airliner. Prior to that, the defense council for the accused said that the suspected Libyan citizens are ready to meet Scottish or U.S. judicial authorities, provided the court is completely impartial in its judgement and the defense council for the accused are allowed to be present in the interrogation. Of course, before the Security Council deadline ran out Tripoli announced that it will not have any objections if the accused, themselves, should ask to be tried in the West.

In the meantime, some Arab countries are doubtful about the Libyan sanctions. Some have declared that they will, in effect, disregard the sanctions by resuming their flights to Tripoli. On the other hand, general opposition in the region against the policies that have put pressure on the Libyan people is on the increase. It is obvious that if the Western proponents of the crisis persist in their hardline stands, and take stronger action to attain their goals, then the current crisis will escalate and will have adverse consequences for the countries in the region.

With the prolongation of the crisis between Libya and the West, the imposition of the sanctions on Libya by the Security Council has caused a rift at the United Nations. Observers believe that after the Kuwaiti crisis the difference of opinion about how to use that organization to deal with global issues has, for the first time, increased considerably. The way the U.S., France, and Britain used the UN to impose sanctions on Libya has brought about opposition from several governments, particularly Third World countries. This opposition, which appeared in the face of the agreement among the members of that organization when dealing with the Kuwaiti crisis, is regarded as a turning point.

'New Front' in Arab World Seen

NC2004182092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1650 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to an earlier announcement, a Syrian Arab Airlines plane is expected to fly from Damascus to Tripoli today despite the UN Security Council resolution imposing a blockade against Libya. This development comes in the wake of Syrian criticism of the Security Council's resolution calling for an air and diplomatic embargo on Libya.

SANA carried remarks by Tawfiq Salihah, chairman of the popular organizations in Syria, who, accompanied by a delegation, met with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli. He stated that Syria affirmed to Libya that it will stand by it in confronting the dangers threatening it.

If we add to this Syrian reaction the sharp criticisms made by Iraq, Sudan, and the PLO against the Security Council's resolution, it can be said that there are signs that a new front is rising in the Arab world to confront the anti-Libyan sanctions.

The U.S. use of the Security Council as an instrument to further its expansionist policies during the Persian Gulf war and to pressure Libya has created a wave of anxiety in Arab circles about the prospect of Arab submission to the new world order that is advocated by the United States. Building on this premise, some Arab parties are seeking to coordinate Arab positions to the greatest extent possible against the U.S. political offensive in the region. These parties are circumventing the unfavorable Arab climate that arose after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the war in the Persian Gulf.

The way in which the United States leveled accusations at Libya, the course which the issue has taken at the United Nations and the Security Council, and the methods by which the UN resolutions were adopted prove that the actual targets are the Libyan people and leadership. Generally, this course of events falls within the context of the new world order advocated by the United States. It is an order that guarantees that its ambitions in the Middle East and North Africa will be attained.

The intransigence shown by the United States and Britain, their rejection of all the proposals which Libya submitted to resolve the crisis peacefully, and their dismissal of all mediation have heightened suspicions about their intentions and the goals which the United States is trying to obtain through the Security Council.

In light of these circumstances and taking into account the true objectives which the Arabs say the United States seeks to achieve, some are asking: To what extent can one regard the stances adopted by some Arab countries such as Sudan, Syria, and Iraq and the PLO regarding the anti-Libyan blockade as being proportional to the dangers? Nevertheless, these stances can go a long way in persuading the United States and the West to reconsider their current policies, which are hostile to the region's nations.

Pakistan

Government 'Trying To Save' Afghanistan

BK2104150092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said Pakistan is trying to save Afghanistan from bloodshed, disintegration, civil war, and ethnic problems. Talking to Austrian and Pakistani newsmen after his hour-long meeting with Chancellor Dr. Franz Vranitzky in Vienna today, the prime minister said we are also helping to alleviate a food shortage in the war-torn country. When asked if he anticipated any bloodshed in Afghanistan, the prime minister said this is what we are trying to save. We do not want any bloodshed in Afghanistan; we do not want any disintegration of Afghanistan; we do not want ethnic division in that country, the prime minister added. He said that of course there is a food shortage, and Pakistan is also trying to help them in this respect. [passage omitted]

Kanjoo Meets With Mojahedin Party Representatives

BK2104144992 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] A meeting is in progress in Peshawar between the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, and representatives of Afghan mojahedin parties for early formation of Mojahedin council to assume power in Kabul from the present authorities there. The meeting is being attended by all the 10 mojahedin parties, including a senior representative of Hezb-e Eslami-Hekmatyar group.

A Foreign office spokesman briefing newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon said Pakistan is still pursuing the policy of bringing together Afghan mojahedin with a view to form their council so that it could assume power in Kabul. He emphasized the urgency of the situation and hoped that such a council will be in place soon. Pakistan is fully conscious of the fact that decision must be taken by Afghan mojahedin rightly, and time is not going to wait for them. This point has been impressed upon representatives of Afghan mojahedin by Pakistan.

He said it remains Pakistan's major objective that any bloodshed and ethnic strife is avoided in Afghanistan and transfer of power to mojahedin council takes place in a smooth and orderly manner. He emphasized that only through early transfer of power to mojahedin council, bloodshed and ethnic strife can be avoided. That is the major objective of Pakistan in addition to maintenance of unity, independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan.

Replying to a question about the setting up of Afghan mojahedin council, the spokesman said this proposal originated from certain Afghan parties themselves. It has also the support and blessing of the UN representative on Afghanistan. Pakistan, he emphasized, is trying to facilitate some sort of unity and concerted action by Afghan mojahedin so that a situation does not arise in Afghanistan where mojahedin groups and parties start armed conflict against one another. He said we are trying our level-best to prevent this.

Replying to another question, the spokedsman said it is possible to reach an agreement which can ensure a peaceful and orderly transfer of power in Kabul. He made it clear that any action by any group leading to bloodshed or ethnic strife in Afghanistan will not have the support of the Pakistan Government. Pakistan would totally dissociate itself from the activities of the that group, the spokesman emphasized.

He said according to their reports most of the major cities are no longer in the control of Kabul authorities and there has been no incidents of fighting in and around Kabul.

Regarding the arms supplied by the former Soviet Union to the Kabul authorities, he said most of them were either in Kabul or various garrisons around the country which are now under the control of mojahedin belonging to various parties.

In reply to another question, the spokesman assured that there was no threat to Pakistan's security as a result of the situation in Afghanistan. The government, he said, was following all developments which had any bearing on Pakistan's security and will take necessary steps to ensure security and territorial integrity of our borders.

Zaki, Iran's Musavi Urge Mojahedin Coordination

LD2204105592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's special envoy for Afghan affairs has reviewed the latest political and military developments in Afghanistan with the chief of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.

In this meeting Iran's Mr. Musavi and Pakistan's Akram Zaki stressed the need for continuous consultations to establish agreeent among the leaders of the Jihadi [Mojahedin] groups. They also said that cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan is of the utmost importance in the attainment of a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Musavi, our country's special envoy for Afghan affairs, gave an interview to a Central News Unit correspondent in Islamabad. He described the preparedness of the present Kabul government for the transfer of power to a council consisting of Afghan mojahedin as positive. He stated: In our view, a military move to capture Kabul would bring about new problems while there exists the possibility of solving the Afghanistan problem through political negotiations; this would lead to encounters among the Jihadi groups. Therefore, we await the result of the negotiations of the leaders of Afghan mojahedin leaders. We are making efforts to ensure the necessary cooperation for the removal of obstacles.

He stressed: Jihadi groups can overcome problems through the formation of a council consisting of all groups, observing the rights of various ethnic groups. They can then hand over the government to the real representatives of the Muslim people of Afghanistan after a transitional period.

Defense Minister on Afghanistan, Nonproliferation

BK2204070992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali has said Pakistan hopes that there will be a peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan and that the Afghan issue will be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the people of that country. Speaking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said Pakistan is making efforts for a peaceful resolution of this issue.

Speaking to the Japanese ambassador, Kunio Muraoka, in Rawalpindi, the defense minister said Pakistan has always been ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty with India. Lauding Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's proposal for a five-nation conference to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone, the Japanese envoy said it will help end tension in the region.